New Guinea
Dec. 10, 1944

Dear Folks

As yet I haven't heard from you for quite a while. I hope to get some mail today.

Have been making a few bracelets lately. Don't not to good at engraving but maybe I will improve. Will send a couple to Verda for souvenirs. Sent one to Bill the other day.

I went to confession last nite & communion this morning. The first time I have had a chance for quite a while.

It didn't rain very much last nite. That is quite unusual for New Guinea.

-2-

We get paid yesterday. I got about $130. I will send $100 home. You can take part of it & buy Bob & Verda a nice wedding present. Put the rest of it in the Bank for me.

There really isn't much to write about when you don't get any mail from home. Things are always about the same here.

Well I got a money order made out & will enclose it in the letter.

How much of the corn does you get plucked by now? What yield is the average per acre? I hope it is pretty good.

It looks like it will start raining again soon. It rains every day.

I suppose that Bob & Wanda
have arrived by now & having a
swell time. Would like to be
home for Christmas but maybe I'll
make it the next year.

Can't think of anything else
to write so I will close for
now.

Love
Jim

Dec 15, 1944
New Guinea

Dear Folks

I got two letters from you today. One was written Nov. 9, the other Nov 26. Just goes to show how the mail get here.

We were glad to hear that there wasn't anything ~~wrong~~ wrong with Daddy. I had been wondering because I hadn't heard from home for quite some time.

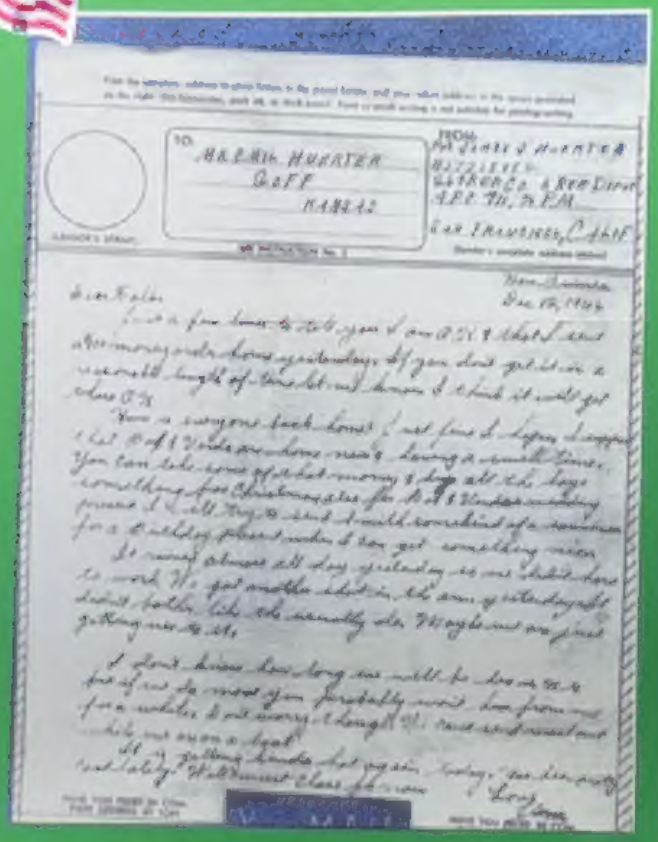
No I haven't gotten the Candy & Cookies yet. They will catch up with me sometime. Don't know when or when though.

Glad to hear that they Kelly had such a swell day for their bazaar. Also glad that they had such a swell crowd.

How long does it take for my mail to get back there?

I think I have requested about enough for Christmas so far. I do want you to send me Grace's picture though. If you can get some kind of folder like picture frame to put it in it would be a lot better.

You can take part of the money I sent home & buy yourself & the rest of the family their Xmas presents. There isn't anything to buy here. Maybe



TO: MRS. ERNA HUNTER
GOFF
KANSAS

FROM: PFC JAMES J. HUNTER
BATTERY C
LIBERATED & REP DIVISION
APO 710, % P.M.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF

Dec 17, 1944

Dear Folks,

Just a few lines to tell you I am O.K. & that I sent a money order home yesterday. If you don't get it in a reasonable length of time let me know & I think it will get close O.K.

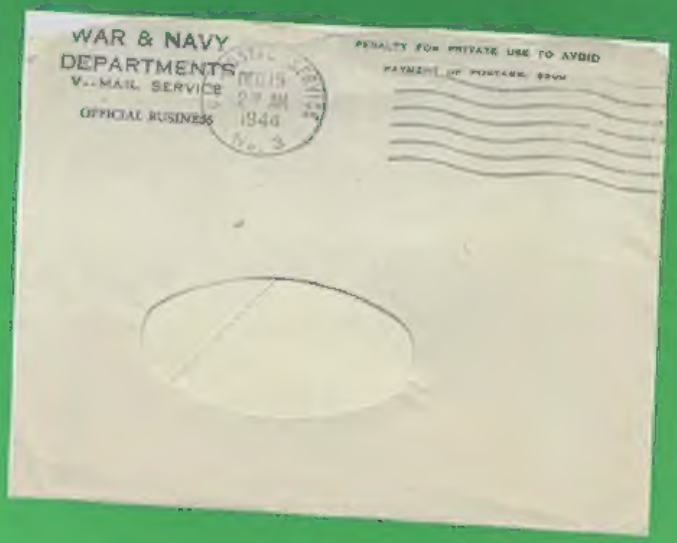
Have everyone back home & not fine & dandy I suppose. I'll be of & I guess we have been having a small time. You can take some of that money & buy all the boys something for Christmas as far as I'm concerned. Make presents I'll try to send a small remembrance for a holiday present under the tree something nice.

We rained almost all day yesterday so we didn't have to work. We got another shot in the arm yesterday & didn't feel like the usually do. Maybe we are just getting used to it.

I don't know how long we will be here or if we do most of you probably won't hear from me for a while. Don't worry I thought of that and wrote this out ahead of time.

Well I'm getting tired so I'm signing off. Take care of yourselves. Write most often if you can.

Love,
Jim



later on we can get some
place where we can buy
something. I sure hope so
anyway.

We can buy a few candy
bars every once in the while
now.

I don't know how long
we will be here. Probably
not to long.

Saw a fellow the other
day that talked just like
Phil Hunter. He was also
slow & easy going just like
Phil is.

Well I can't think of any
thing else to write so will
close for now.

Merry Xmas to All. Love
Jim

United we stand
Together we survive
America the beautiful
Where freedom shines
Red, white and blue
The stars and stripes
Wave over a nation
As a symbol of pride
For all who believe
It's home of the brave
America the beautiful
Long shall she reign

Dear Folks

This is going to get there A little early for Xmas but they tell us that we are going to to move and I want to send them before they get lost.

Well you may think I am crazy or something but I have just signed up in the Regular Army effective Oct. 31. I was Discharged from the Army of The United States Oct. 30 & am now in the United States Army. If everything goes as it should I will be home sometime next spring on A 90 day furlough. I may be sorry later on but I don't think so. This isn't so bad now that the War is over I signed up for one year.

They told us that we are going to Japan again before long. Must close for now. Will write soon

Jim

SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM
A PARATROOPER

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

New Guinea
Dec. 16, 1944

Dear Folks

How is everyone back home? I just fine & hope. I am still O.K.

Boy the time sure seems to slip by. Here it is Sat. again. It seems like it should be about Wed.

I went to Confession again tonite & expect to go to Communion in the morning unless we have to work.

We had to work for a while last nite. After we got done I went to the shows. I saw two of them last nite. They were both good. I went to ~~to~~ & saw "Gone" first.

WOOF!

ARF!

After that was over I went & saw "The Sun & The Cactus." The Andrews sisters played in it. Well I will sign off now & go to bed. Will write some more tomorrow.

Here it is Sunday morning. Looks like it is going to be a swell day. It is a half hour yet before Church. We don't have to work so I will get to go O.K.

How much Corn have you got shucked so far. Did you get a picker to pick the Corn on the ~~to~~ farm? I sure hope you did. It will save a lot of time & work. Dad should buy one if he could find one. I see him a lot of

WOOF!

American as apple pie

3

work

Did you get the Com
elevator to work

You been doing a lot of
reading lately. Say will you
~~write to me every month or so if it is possible~~
every month or so if it is possible
I don't know whether you can
do that or not I hope so

If they give out passes
this afternoon I think I will
go swimming. Hours been
swimming for quite a while
now.

Well I can't think of
anything else ~~to write about~~
Close for now

Love
Lin

LAND THAT I LOVE

GOD BLESS THE USA

AMERICA the BEAUTIFUL

New Guinea
Dec 20, 1944

Dear Folks

I got a letter from you yesterday & was very glad to hear from you. Some of the boys got some Christmas packages yesterday & also some that had been sent to Ft. Benning.

Well probably get mine before very long. Hope so anyway.

We got to play softball yesterday afternoon instead of working I like that a lot better.

They had mail call this morning but I still didn't get any mail.

Glad to hear the

is turning out so good this year. Week we had some of that cold weather over here. It sure gets hot at times.

It hasn't rained here for over a week now. Don't know what is going to happen. Generally rains every day.

I guess maybe if it stays cold back there you may have a white Xmas.

Well there isn't anything to write about so I will close for now.

Now gotta send of Love
your letters so far.

Jim

P.S. My boots weren't supposed to be in my suitcase. I got Morris's wife must send them from Sun & rowsiree.

Prelude to Christmas Poem

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this house did live

I looked all about, A strange sight I did see.
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With Medals and Badges, Awards of all kinds
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary
I found the home of a Soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone.
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder
Not how I pictured a United States Soldier

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight

Soon round the world, the children would play
And grown ups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here

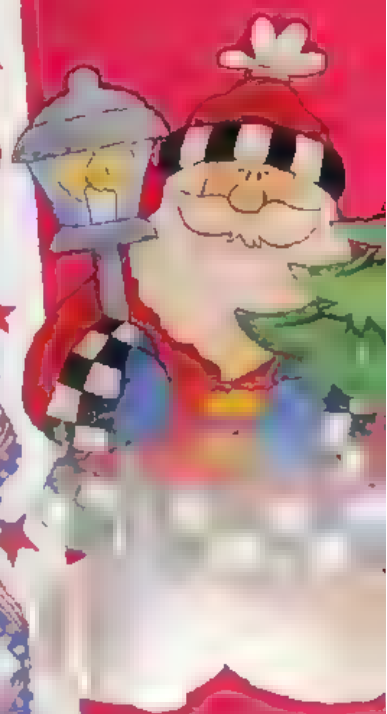
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is My God, My Country, My Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still
And we both shivered from the cold nights chill

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This guardian of liberty so willing to fight
Then the Soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, All is secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend and to all a Good Night."



[illegible]

[illegible] to get [illegible] again. I am a P.F. until we leave [illegible] I [illegible] to stay [illegible] now. I say [illegible] you [illegible] of me so I got [illegible].

We got at work one day & work until six & stop at five in the morning & work until [illegible]. We are off this [illegible] until the next day [illegible].

It rained last night. It's first time in a while [illegible].

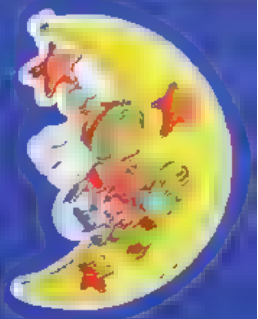
I [illegible] get [illegible]

I soon back to Camp by the time you get this letter. Is Verda going back with him. I suppose we will want to.

I haven't gotten any mail for quite a while now. Hope to get some soon... should be getting mail packages any time now.

I did get a letter from Fred once the other day. He was [illegible] to get to Canada [illegible]

[illegible] now



to eat anyway. I will probably
get fat again.

I want to commend
this morning, it was some
indeed 77 Mes. Truly is nice
go again. I probably won't get
chance to go on [illegible]

Well, probably [illegible]
keep writing I assume [illegible]
moderate to slow [illegible]

I got [illegible]
for a change anyway.
[illegible]
[illegible]
to get [illegible]

[illegible] go to [illegible]
[illegible]

Did you get the money order I sent home. He may have gotten it by the time you get this letter I don know. I will see what I can find out about it.

[illegible] there? I not finish [illegible] it seemed any [illegible] would like to see some [illegible]

[illegible] the whole about [illegible] are [illegible] now

CHRIST MASS

1944

5TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT
NEW GUINEA

PROGRAMME

[illegible] MIDNIGHT MASS FOR CHRISTMAS OF 1944 IN NEW GUINEA

[illegible]NT - Reverend F. H. Vanhalme, S.S.J. Chaplain, U.S.
Organist - Corp. [illegible] Choir

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

[illegible], All Ye Faithful" No. 82 . . . . . [illegible]
Congregation
The Herald Angels [illegible]
The Choir
[illegible] Night, Holy Night" . . . . . [illegible]
Soloist and Choir
[illegible] We Have Heard [illegible] . . . . . [illegible]
Soloist and Choir
[illegible]irst Noel" . . . . . [illegible]
The Choir
"O Holy Night" . . . . . [illegible]
Soloist and Choir

HOLY [illegible]

Kyrie . . . . . St. [illegible]
Gloria . . . . . [illegible]
Credo . . . . . [illegible]
Sanctus . . . . . St. [illegible]
Benedictus . . . . . St. [illegible]
Agnus Dei . . . . . [illegible]
The Choir

"Adeste Fideles". . . . . Oakeley
Soloist and Choir

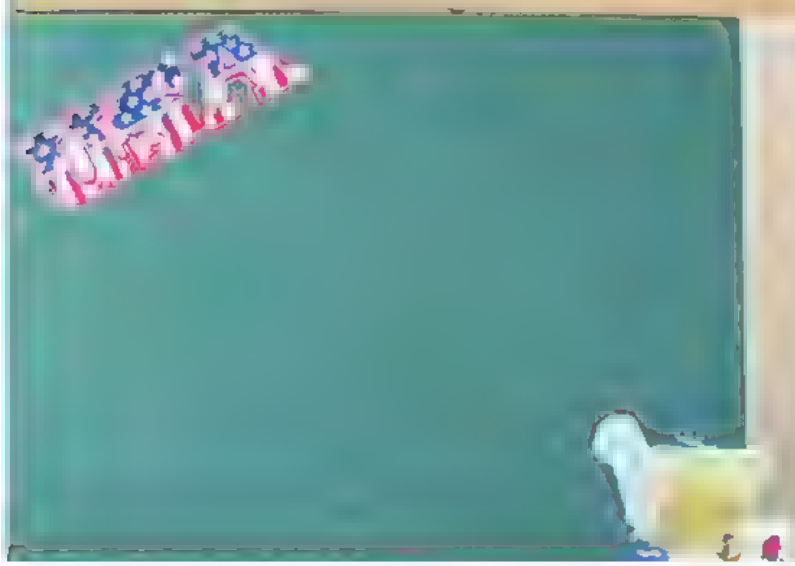
May the Infant Saviour of Bethlehem's Crib bestow

upon you and your loved ones His choicest blessings dur-

ing this Christmas Season, and may His peace be in your

hearts throughout the coming year.

F.B. VANHOLME, S.S.E.



PREPARED BY THE BEST COOKS OF THE SWPA

CADRE COOKS

Sgt Wilson
Sgt Mortenson
Sgt Munn
Cpl Olena
Cpl Portolino
Cpl Hokenson

CASUAL COOKS

Cpl Pace
Pfc Hale
Pvt Holmerich
Pvt Glenn
Pvt Prater
Pvt [illegible]
Pvt [illegible]
Pvt Knight
Pvt Mullis
Pvt Giddons
Pvt Kazmersak
Pvt Koch
Pvt Whitehouse
Pvt [illegible]
Pvt [illegible]
Pvt [illegible]
Pvt Christopher

BAKERS

Pvt Timmons
Pvt Meehan
Pvt Kir[illegible]
Pvt [illegible]

S Sgt [illegible] L Roe
Mess Sergeant

1st Lt [illegible]
Mess Officer

K E E D

[illegible]

SALAD DRESSING GIBLET GRAVY

[illegible] YAMS CRANBERRY [illegible]

BUTTERED CORN CREAMED [illegible]

OLIVES [illegible] PICKLES

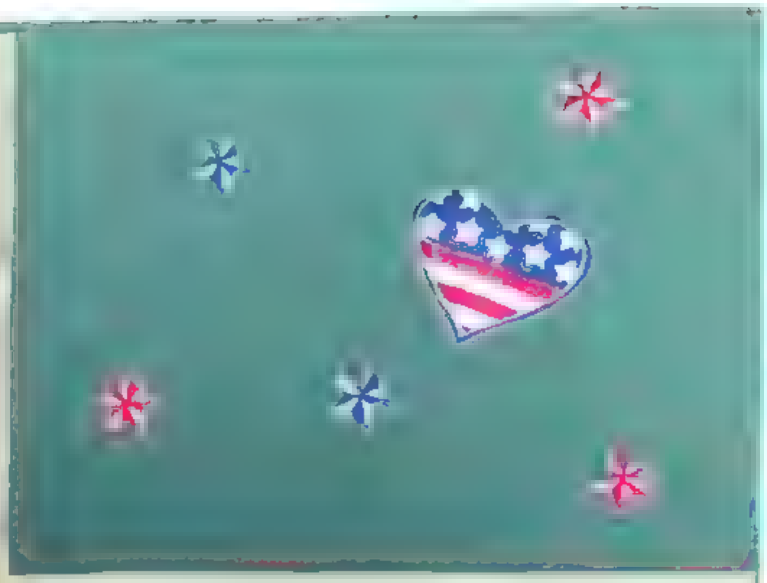
[illegible] BUTTER

PUMPKIN PIE

[illegible] CAKE

CANDY

ICED TEA



259TH REPLACEMENT COMPANY.

Capt. Merlin J. Chadsey, Commanding Off[illegible]

[illegible]	Wendelin J. Biegler	1st Sergeant
[illegible]	Olan D. Cornell	Supply Sergeant
S/Sgt	Duane L. Ros	Mess Sergeant
[illegible]	Albert J. Heenst[illegible]	Company Clerk
Tec/4	Merrill H. Mortenson	Cook
Tec/4	Edward T. [illegible]inon	Cook
Tec/4	Otto [illegible]	Cook
Tec/[illegible]	Pierre [illegible] line	Cook
Tec/5	Avery T. P[illegible]enson	Cook
Tec/5	Max [illegible]	Cook
Tec/5	Kenneth W. P[illegible]ince	Mail Clerk
Tec/5	Robert C. [illegible]	Armorer
Tec/5	Rex F. [illegible]	Clerk,Bn. Hq.
Pvt.	James D. [illegible]	Truck Driver
Pfc.	Robert D. [illegible]	Bugler

1st PLATOON

Lt. Peter Sorola, Plat Commander

[illegible] Staff Sergeant, Plat. Sgt

[illegible] C. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

2nd PLATOON

Lt. Herbert Schmitz, Pl[illegible]

S/Sgt Otto Buehner, [illegible]

Sgt. Donald K. [illegible]

Sgt. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

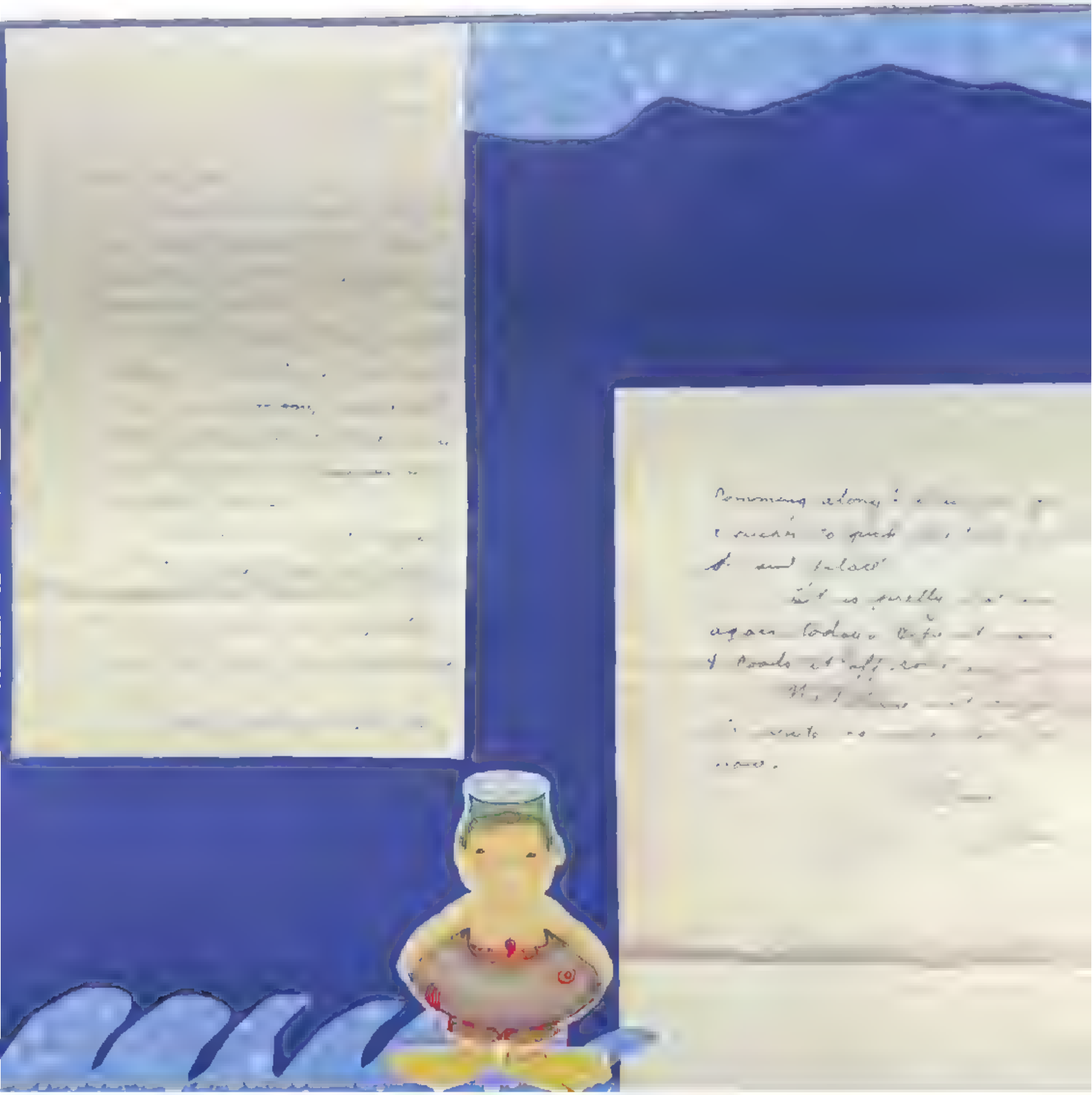
[illegible]

[illegible] Ben Lee — 1st Sgt.

[illegible] Robert N. Scherer — 2nd [illegible]

[illegible] F.A.D'Alessio — [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]n L. Stephens — Lt [illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I made a little [illegible]
[illegible] I just wish I could send it to [illegible]
[illegible] it on it. They
[illegible] gone. I don't know what
[illegible]

[illegible] you can
[illegible] to get some
[illegible] I said you'd be [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] many
[illegible] for Pap

my two boys. Then put away presents
with part of it. I'll [illegible]
probably be out when you get
home. It mells or haven't got a
new anything & I am well. Come
along pretty quick.

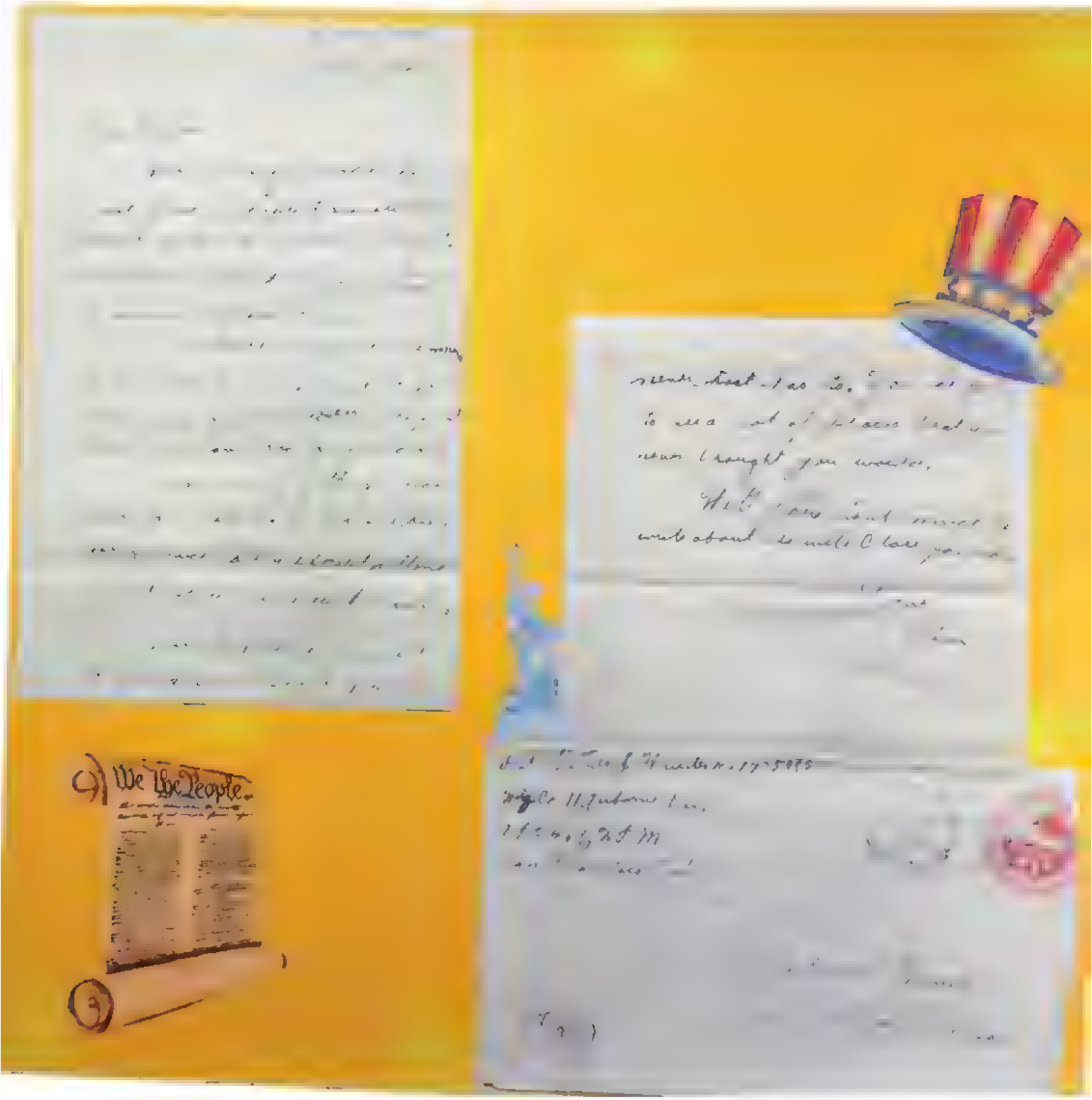
It is still pretty [illegible]
I have a little lost [illegible]

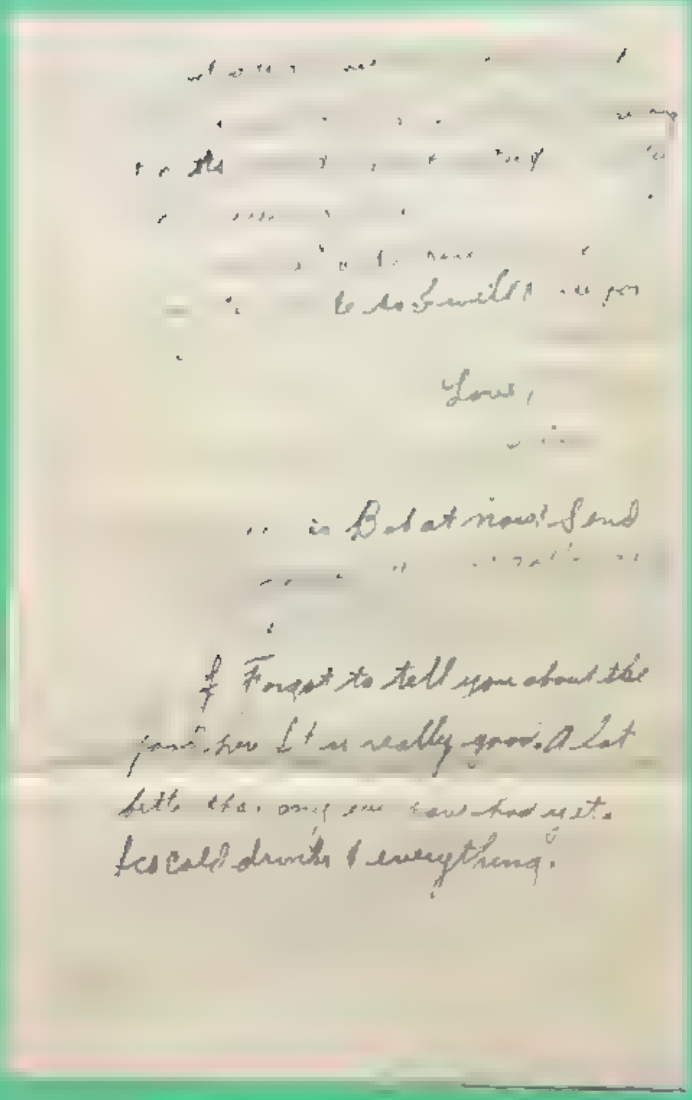
I don't know much to write
about so will close for now.

Love

[illegible]


Let Freedom Ring!

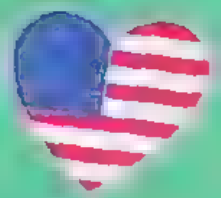

We The People



Love,

I forgot to tell you about the food. It is really good. A lot like ... only we have had it. Ice cold drinks & everything.

America be proud!



In God we trust.

Let Freedom Ring!

Philippines
Feb 6, 1945

Dear Bill

How are you by now? first fine I hope. ~~It~~ Did your leg stay stiff. I hope it didn't.

What has been ~~don~~ going on back there lately. I haven't heard from anyone for over a month now.

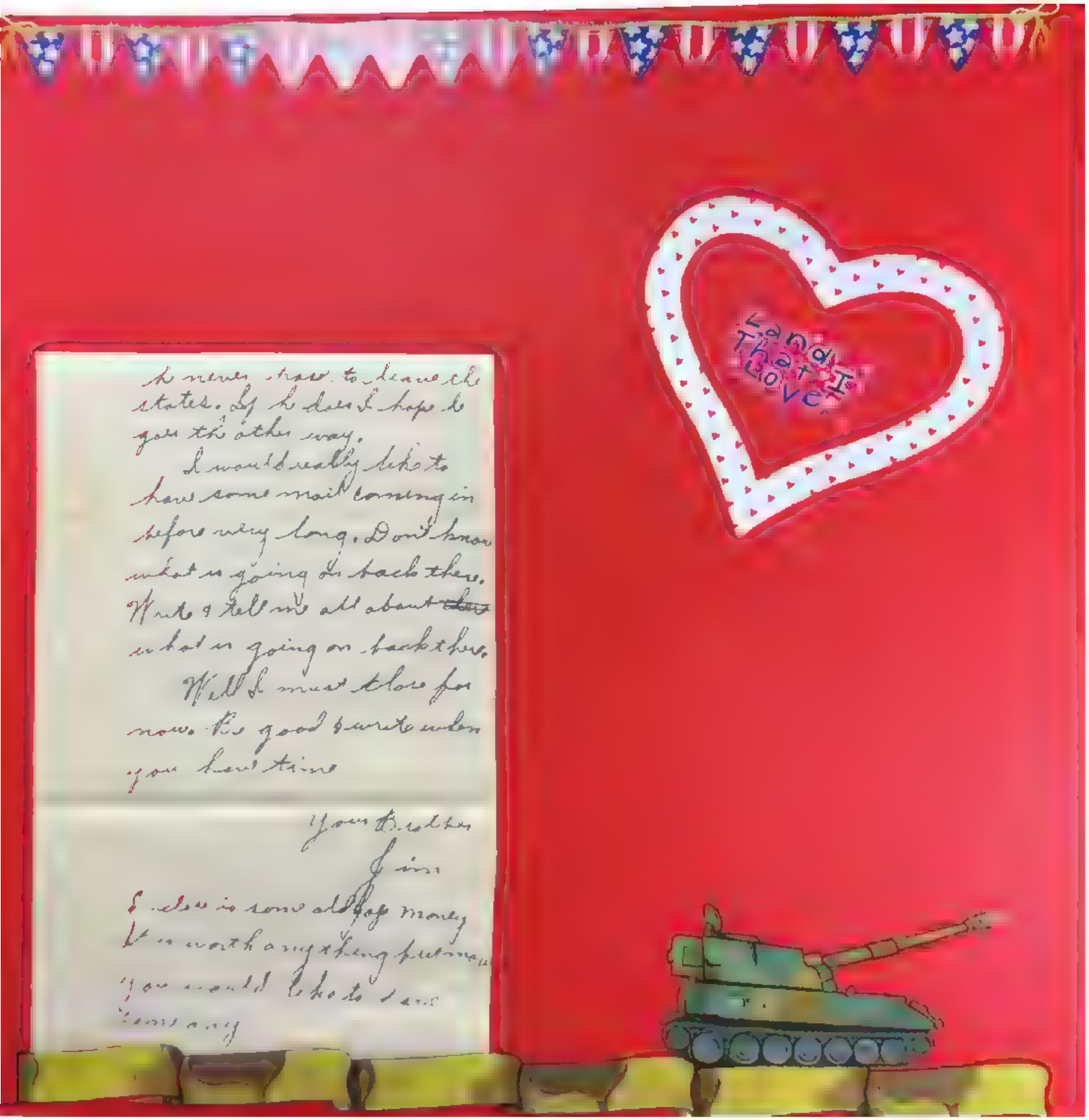
Say Bill do you remember that little silver colored Evans lighter. Anyway if you can find it take it to a jeweler & get it fixed & then send it to me Would sure like to have a good lighter.

I like it pretty good here in the Philippines. The people here are really friendly. They will wash your clothes for a small amount of money.

There is really a swell outfit here. The boys are all just like brothers. They would give you anything they have if you ask them for it.

We were supposed to join the 511 but I am glad that we didn't now I think that there is a better outfit by far

Where is Bob now? Is Verda still with him I hope



I never have to leave the states. By he does I hope he goes the other way.

I would really like to have some mail coming in before very long. Don't know what is going to back there. Write & tell me all about ~~the~~ what is going on back there.

Well I must close for now. Be good & write when you have time

Your Brother
Jim

I also is some all for money it is worth anything to me. You would like to save some any

Philippines
Feb. 14, 1945

Hello Don

Well I suppose you feel like a little man now. It won't be very long until you have another birthday.

We can't buy any presents so I will send you one that I have made. It is a pretty good one I think Don I want you to keep it until I get home. I may want it then

How have you been getting along in school? You haven't been expelled lately have you?

What are some of the latest

shows back there? I bet you have seen some good ones

We seen to pretty good ones lately. Last nite we saw "My Gal Loves Music" & the nite before "A Guy Named Joe" They were both good shows

Do they still have show dances in Seneca? I hey wrong do

Well Don I can't think of much to write so will close for now. Be good.

Your Pal
Jim

Dear Folks

The mail has finally come [illegible] received a letter last [illegible].

Don't know how long [illegible] I was to hear of Verda's death. It was quite a shock to me. I suppose it was really an awful shock to [illegible] back there.

[illegible] Bob now? I hope he [illegible] it to hard if they [illegible] any pictures taken I would like to see them. I got Verda & Bob's picture.

Have you gotten the money [illegible] sent from Rome [illegible]. [illegible] I'm [illegible] it may [illegible] not [illegible] sent [illegible] it [illegible] about [illegible] stamps about

Them.

There isn't any use to try to send any candy over here. When it gets here it isn't any good anyway. We have been getting quite a lot of candy & cookies now.

Well must close for now

Love

Jim

Well I am I wrote this before We — but didn't get to mail it so will add a few lines. I am O.K. & back when we come to find in the Philippines. Have gotten several letters I am feeling fine. Well I will close & will write soon. Well if you send some necessary clippings of [illegible] outfit I'd be to know what they [illegible]

B-17 Flying Fortress

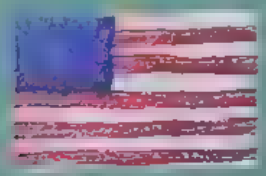
take it to get there but it will
sooner or later

They to the pictures of the boys
from different states that took part
in our last mission I are to have
them put in our hometown paper.
Don't know whether they will
be very plain or not. Would like
for you to send me one of them

Got promoted to a Sgt the
other day. He. Was kind surprised
at myself

Well there isn't much
about out well close for now

I am



[illegible]

[illegible] ask me if I had seen a lot in the papers? No I haven't but it takes them ~~this~~ about three months to get here so would just as soon you wouldn't send it I get most of the news anyway. We aren't getting the American Magazines yet but hope to soon. They have some good stories in them.

The Red Cross serves out ice cold cocoa every afternoon, it's pretty good.

We have been [illegible] stories lately. We've seen [illegible] them before but don't mind [illegible] some of them again.

[illegible]

[illegible]

I received your letter today & was very glad to hear from you. I got two letters from Bob yesterday. He said that he wasn't getting much flying time in lately because of the weather.

I guess he was glad to that he made the grade so that he could be a fighter pilot. He told me once that he was more interested in flying a fighter than any other [illegible] I guess he got his [illegible]

I had heard that Paul was stationed a few days ago. One of the women at [illegible] told me about them. She said that they were very cute. Bet they are mighty proud of them.

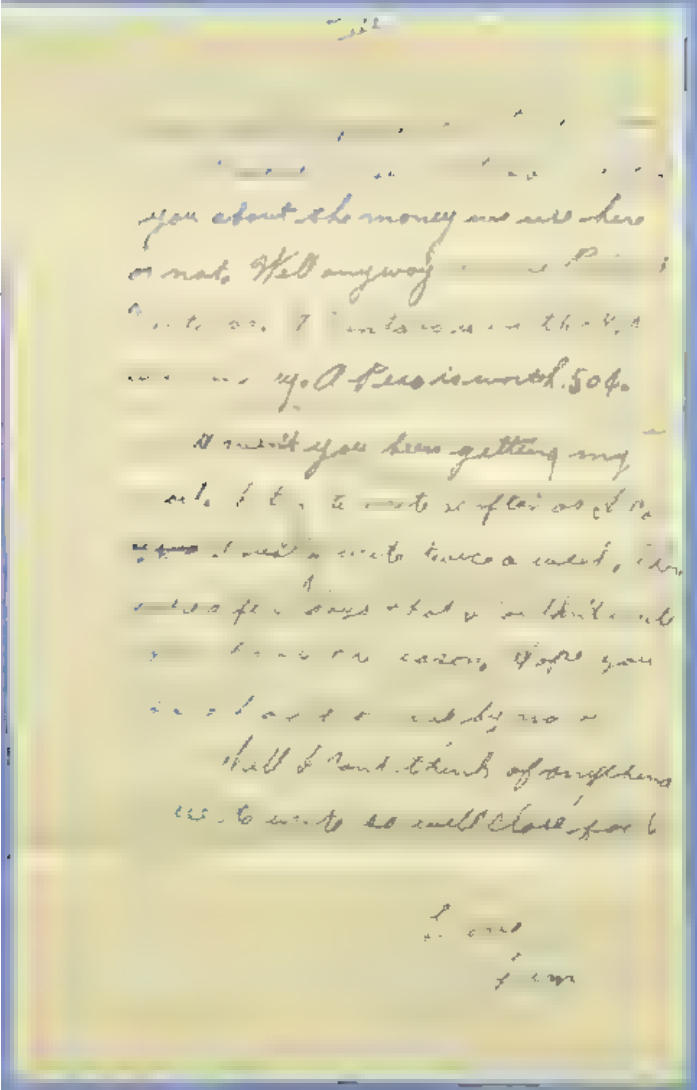
4

I had just written to him a few days before I heard about the twins.

Does Mrs Moman keep you posted about who were or what. She is very nice & she has two cute little children. They were really nice to me the day ~~they~~ we were there. Mrs Moman is in the same outfit. He is in Co E. We see each other all the time. We go to Church together once in the while.

I have been getting quite a ~~[illegible]~~ little mail lately. A lot of it is old mail just catch up with. It's pretty much like to read it anyway. I still haven't gotten any [illegible] yet. I guess they will be about [illegible] me something.

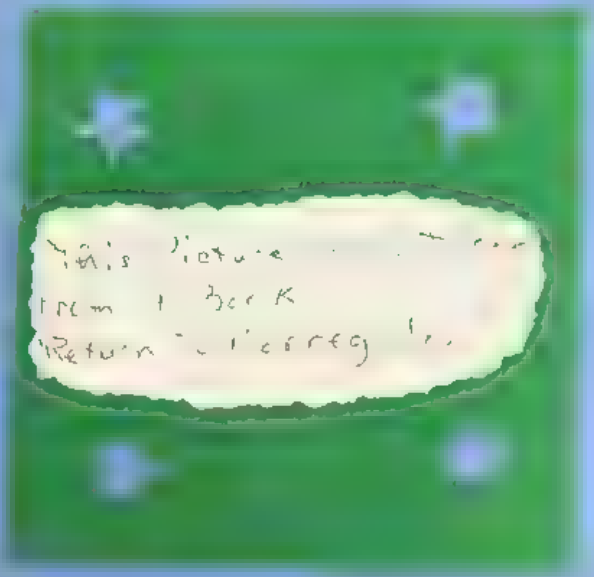
We had a nice rain here this morning. It was the first [illegible]



you about the money we will have
or not. Well anyway [illegible]
[illegible] I intend on the [illegible]
[illegible] yet. A Pension worth $50.

I wish you been getting my
[illegible] letters as I
[illegible] write twice a week, [illegible]
[illegible] days that I in that [illegible]
[illegible] reason. Hope you
[illegible]
Well I don't think of anything
else to write so will close for [illegible]

Love
Tom



KANSAS

1st Row L. to R. Pfc. Smith, Pvt Huerter Pfc Taylor Pvt. Roberts Pfc Brown, Pfc. Maxwell Pvt. Dikes Pfc. Funk, Pfc Moorman.
2nd Row L. to R Capt. Murphy, Lt. Kurst, Sgt. Peery, Pfc. Schwindumann, Cpl. Herold Sgt Alstrom Pfc Wunderlich Sgt Jones Sgt Smith

[illegible]

[illegible]

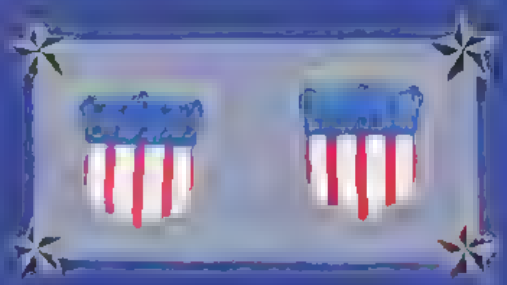
[illegible]

I received a letter today from [illegible] that was on the train Washington to [illegible] I heard that [illegible] was still home [illegible] a quite a stay. I suppose [illegible] was helping his folks [illegible]

We have been [illegible] pretty good [illegible] We had [illegible] today. Rest [illegible] for dinner & hamburgers for supper.

I don't know what the name of the show is to be. We'll have to go & see it out.

[illegible] again I set



note & today so am a little [illegible] tonite.

Have you heard from me yet? Hope you lovely now. I can't figure out why you haven't heard from me by now.

Well it is about time to go to the show so will close for now. Will write more the next time

[illegible]

WESTERN UNION

DATE OF SERVICE

SYMBOL S

Ship Radiogram

R F CK 43 Govt

Washington D.C. 106 AM May 15 1945

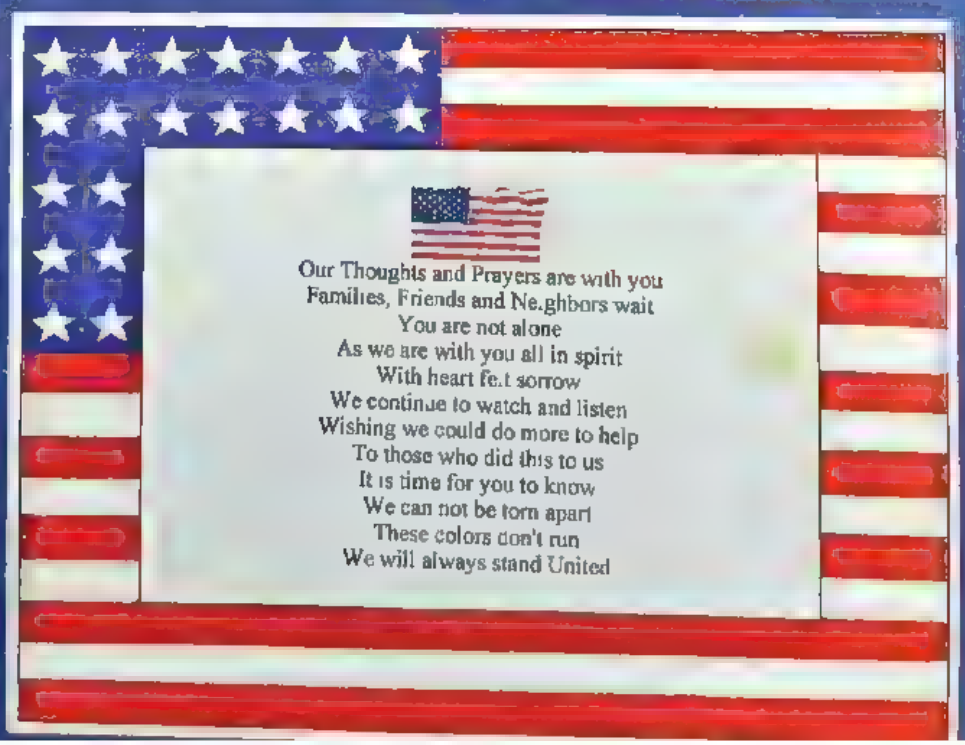
Emil Huerter
Goff, Kans.

The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son Pfc Huerter James J was slightly wounded on Negros Island 20 April 1945 continue to address mail to him as formerly or until new address is received from him.

J A Ulio, The Adjutant General of the Army

647 AM

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



AMERICAN RED CROSS

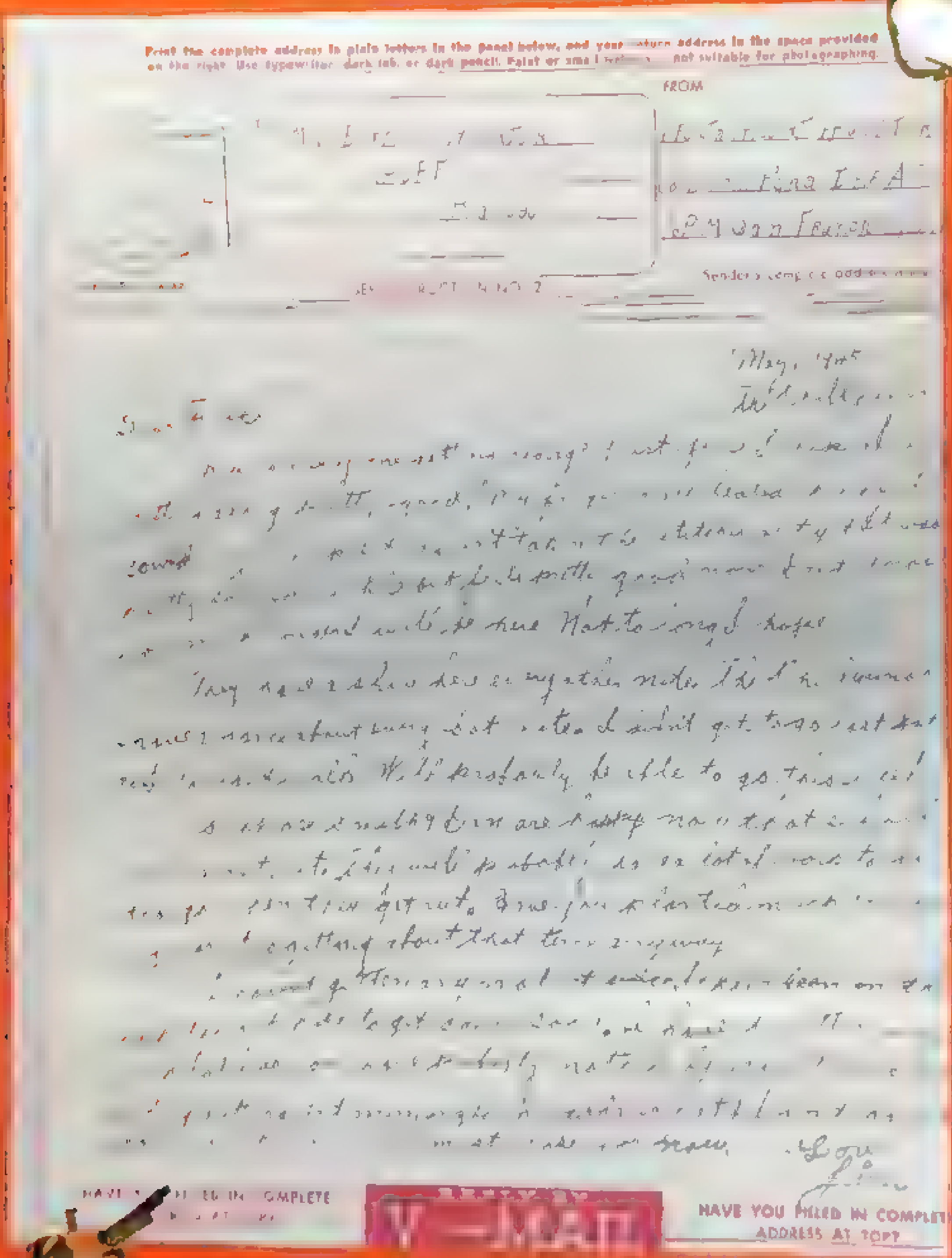
A R M Y

AMERICAN RED CROSS

They had a big dance for us the first night we got here. It's all had quite a lot of fleas. [illegible]

One Nation,
under God...
with Liberty
and Justice for all.

U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
APR 2 1945
A.P.O.



Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

FROM

[illegible]

A.P.O. [illegible] San Francisco

Sender's complete address [illegible]

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

May, '45 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] We'll probably be able to go [illegible]

[illegible] about that [illegible]

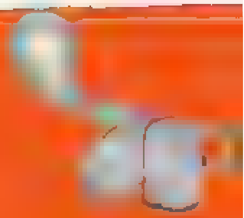
[illegible]

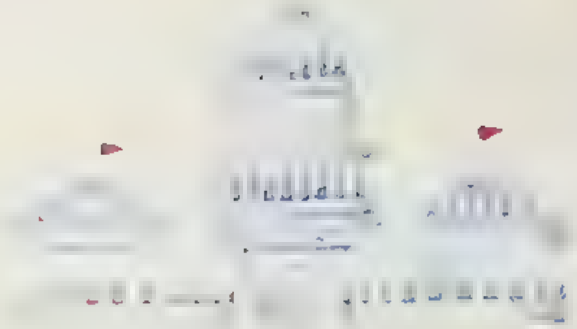
Love

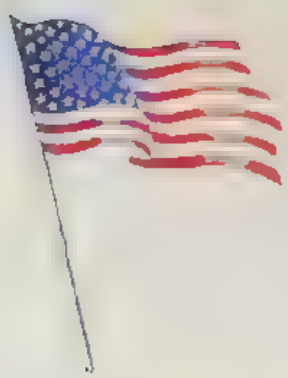
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V—MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?







Short History of the Purple Heart

After the victory over the British at Yorktown, Virginia, in October 1781, General George Washington established his headquarters at New Burgh, NY, to keep a watchful eye on the English forces. He had a keen appreciation for the importance of the common soldier in any campaign and often recognized outstanding valor **or merit with a commission or advancement in rank for the soldier concerned. In the summer of 1782, the Continental Congress ordered him to stop. There were no funds to pay the soldiers -- much less the officers.** Searching for some means of recognizing his men, he wrote a General Order on August 7, 1782 that read in part **as follows:**

"The General, ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as foster and encourage every species, military merit, directs that whenever any singular, meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over his left breast the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward... The name and regiment of the persons so certified are to be enrolled in a Book of Merit which shall be kept in the orderly room... Men who have merited this distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do... The order to be retroactive to the commencement of the war and to be a permanent one. The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all."

Sgts. Elam Crouch & William Brown and Daniel Bissell Jr. are the only known recipients of this award during the Revolutionary War. On May 3, 1783, Crouch and **Brown received the Purple Heart. Bissell received his** on June 9, 1783. It was never officially abolished. However the badge was allowed to fall into disuse and was forgotten as no further awards were made after the Revolutionary War.

Prior to the celebration of George Washington's Bicentennial **in 1932, a search for his papers was initiated.** After having been lost or misplaced for a period of 150 years, **the General Order of 1782 was discovered as was the** accounts of the recipients who received the award. The Book of Merit has never been found. Beginning in 1932 several efforts by the Army and private citizens attempted to revive the Badge of Military Merit. [illegible] January 7, 1933, General Douglas MacArthur concurred, hence the case with the proposed award was issued on the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. The War Department announced the new award on February 22, 1932.

Army Regulations were revised to reflect this new award.

"[illegible] the author of the command be authorized to make the award to the [illegible] soldiers [illegible] social rank or of [illegible] service."

At that time the Navy Department did not authorize the issue of the Purple Heart, but Franklin D. Roosevelt amended that. By Executive Order on December 3, 1942, the award was extended to the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard beginning December 6, 1941.

President Harry S. Truman retroactively extended eligibility to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard to April 5, 1917, to cover World War I.

President John F. Kennedy extended eligibility on April 25, 1962, to *"any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force . . . has been, or may hereafter be, wounded."*

Army regulations, amended June 20, 1969, state that any *"member of the Army who was awarded the Purple Heart for meritorious achievement or service, as opposed to wounds received in action, between December 7, 1941 and September 22, 1943, may apply for award of an appropriate decoration in lieu of the Purple Heart."* Thus the award was restricted to those wounded in action.

President Ronald Regan, on February 23, 1984, amended President Kennedy's order, to include those wounded or killed as a result of *"an international terrorist attack."*

There are no records of the first individual who received the revived and redesigned Purple Heart. This revived form is of metal, instead of perishable cloth, made in the shape of a rich purple heart bordered with gold, with a bust of Washington in the center and the Washington Coat-Of-Arms at the top. The latter is believed to have been the source of the stars and stripes of the American Flag. Intrinsically, the Purple Heart is the world's costliest military decoration - nineteen separate operations are required to make it from the rough heart, stamped from bronze to the finished medal, plated with gold and enameled in various colors, suspended from a purple and white ribbon.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

May 21, 1945

Dear Mr. Huerter:

Although you were previously officially notified, I have just learned with deep regret that your son, Pfc. James J. Huerter, has been wounded in enemy action while defending his country.

I realize that any expression of mine will be wholly inadequate to assuage your grief and anxiety, yet I want you to know that you and the other members of his family have my thoughts at such a time.

This performance of his duty has come in connection with his desire to help preserve in every way possible the rights of free men and the ideals upon which our Nation is founded.

It is my wish, as I know it is yours, that his recuperation may be both speedy and complete.

Sincerely your friend,

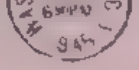
Arthur Capper

Mr. Emil P. Huerter
Goff, Kansas

The American Spirit lives forever.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
FREE



Mr. Emil P. Huerter
Goff, Kansas

June 21, 1945

Dear Folks

How is everyone getting along back there now? Just fine I hope. I am O.K. now & am back at the Company. Got out of the hospital Monday.

Have gotten some mail lately. ~~[illegible]~~ Got the billfold O.K. It really is nice. Haven't gotten the diary yet but should get it in a few days.

We have been getting a lot of fresh meat to eat lately. Steak & hamburger & roast beef.

Lt. B of still in the States. I haven't heard from him

II

for a long time.

Say can you get Helen Berridge's address for me. She wrote to me but I lost her address. Ed probly knows what it is or Mr. Stark.

When I was in the hospital I got acquainted with a Fillipino boy & he use to bring me a fried chicken. It was really good.

Is it still raining a lot back there? It rains almost every day here. The rainy season has just started.

I still haven't gotten any of the packages yet. Maybe we will be here long enough for them to catch up with us. I hope so

III

anyway.

I was sure sorry to hear about George. I guess that he only had been in about six months.

You ask about where I was hit. I got hit about six inches above the left knee They put seven stitches in it. It got infected & they had to take them then it pulled apart so it didn't do any good for them to sew it up in the first place

Well I can't think of anything else to write so will close for now

Lovingly
Jim

The Philippines
July 2, 1945

Dear Folks

I guess it is about time for me to write to you. How is everyone back there. O.K. I hope.

I am just fine am pretty sleepy this morning. Was on town guard all nite.

It is starting the rainy season here now. It sure gets nice & cool at nites.

Do you have all Corn planted I suppose you have by now. How is the wheat & oats this year. It should be pretty good being we had plenty of rain this year.

Three of us were invited out for dinner yesterday. We had roasted chicken & a lot of other stuff. We really had a swell time

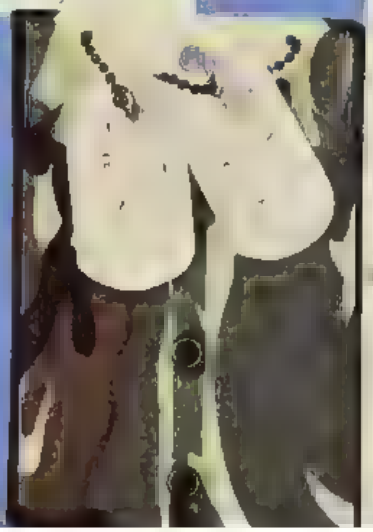
There is suppose to be a big dance in town tonite. Don't know whether I will get to go or not. I hope I do

We havent been getting but very little mail here now. I still haven't gotten any of my packages as yet they brought in several truck loads of mail yesterday so maybe I will be getting some soon.

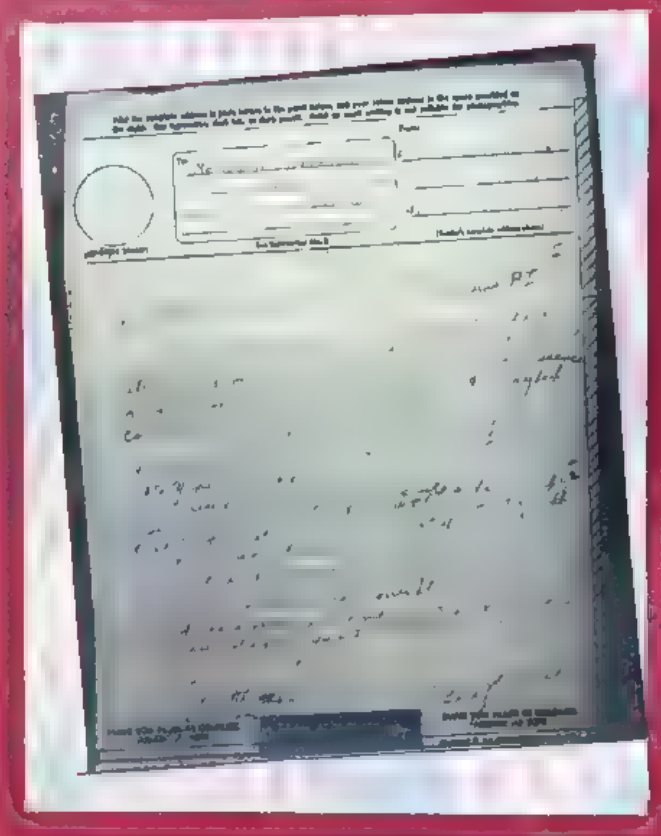
I am going to send some Japanese invasion money home with this letter. It isnt go no for anything but a souvenir.

Well I cant think of much to write so will close for now I'll write again soon

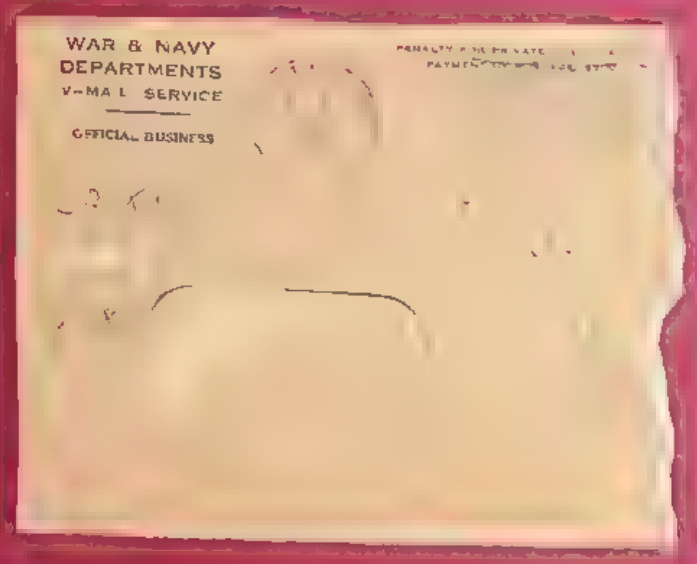
(over)




Mr Lowell Hunter
Iola
Kansas




ARMY


WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V-MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

August 2, 1945
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time so will write a few lines. I have been getting my mail pretty ~~regulary~~ regually now. Today I get two letters today. They were both letters old but I enjoyed them anyway.

I also got one of the Seneca paper yesterday. It was the one that told about Uncle Frank & Aunt Dora's twins. It was a little old

It hasn't rained here for almost a week. It tried to rain here a little today but it sprinkled a little.

How did the wheat & oats turn out? I hope it turned out as good as Henry Nichols thought it would. Did Bill have any wheat & oats on the Brown place

Say another boy saw the diary you sent [illegible] would like to have one of you could get another. He said that he [illegible] back home. He will be [illegible] for three [illegible] a bagge.

[illegible]

August 2, 1945
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time so will write a few lines. I have been getting my mail pretty ~~regulary~~ regually now. Today I get two letters today. They were both letters old but I enjoyed them anyway.

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Say another boy saw the diary you sent [illegible] would like to have one of you could get another. He said that he [illegible] back home. He will be [illegible] for three [illegible] a bagge.

[illegible]

written to them for quite a while now. It is getting pretty dark so will finish this tomorrow morning.

Well here it is morning & it looks like another nice day. It gets awfully hot but you get used to it. It hasn't been so awfully bad out here.

My leg is getting ~~sore~~ sore again. My pants leg wears blisters on it & then it gets sore. It is pretty tender yet. It will probably be all right again in a few days.

Well I can't think of any thing else to write so will close for now

Love
Lee

U.S. ARMY

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Proud to be an AMERICAN

Dear Folks

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

It's real [illegible] & cool. [illegible]
Yesterday raining almost [illegible]
[illegible] last week but any [illegible]
back there now than at the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] all summer

We got to see two [illegible] the first for quite a while. [illegible]
more both rather old but [illegible]
good anyway

Yes Bob's gotten [illegible]
states yet. [illegible]
Bill said that he [illegible]
back on a hot [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible] P.I.

Dear Folks

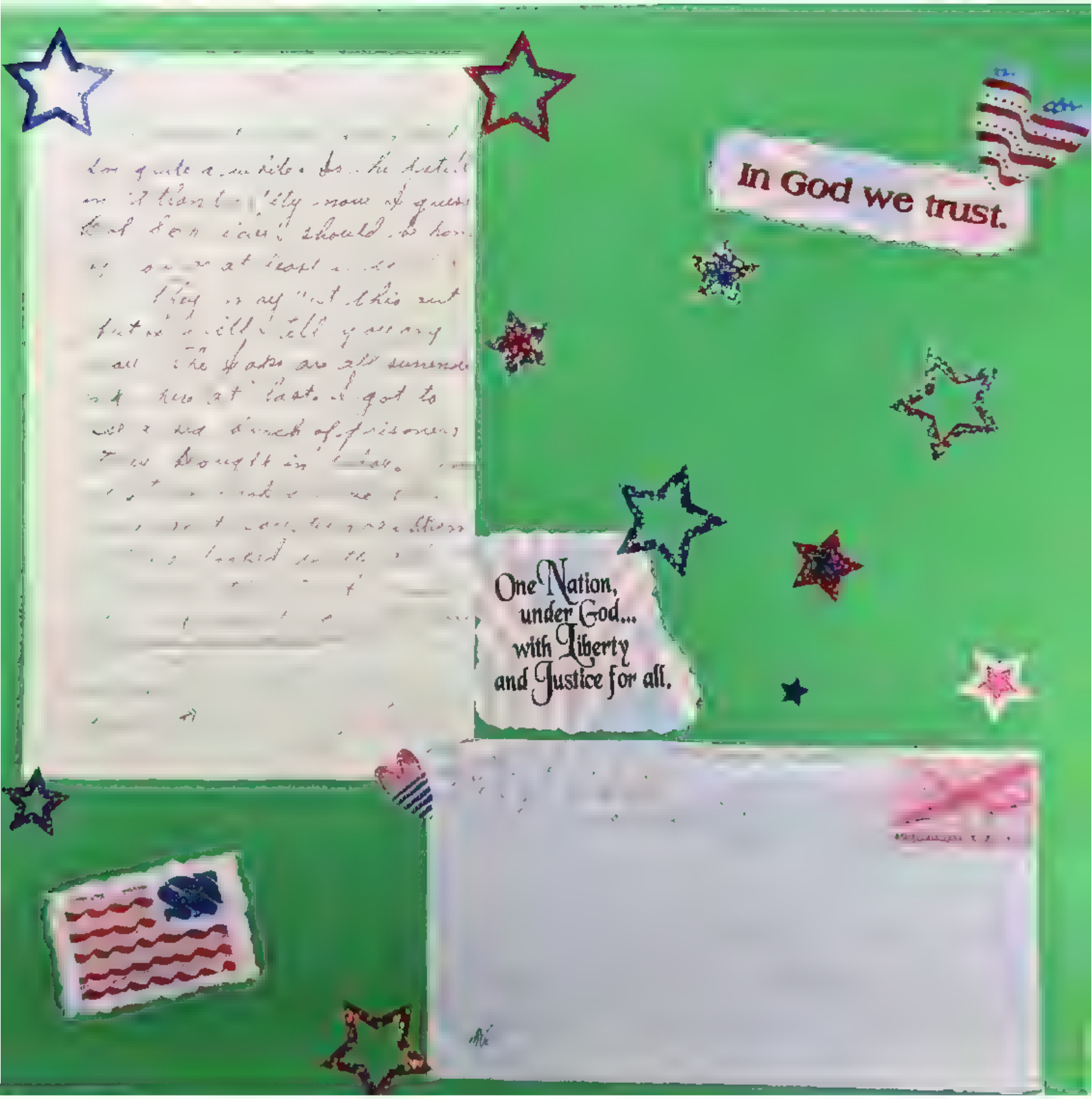
It has been a while since I have written to you so I'll do so now. How are everyone back there now? [illegible]

I got the cards you sent to me [illegible] good to get them. I've had some [illegible] but mail [illegible] I'm [illegible] it is [illegible] [illegible]

P.S. I'm [illegible]

Filipinos have a place of table tennis & billards. There are three girls that look just like an American girl they are really nice

I've got paid a few days ago & will send ~~[illegible]~~ hundred & fifty dollars in this letter. It is [illegible]


In God we trust.
One Nation,
under God...
with Liberty
and Justice for all.

Camp [illegible]
Sept. 11

Dear Folks

[illegible] as every one back there now? Just fine & [illegible] as good as could be [illegible] the co. [illegible] moved back in Florida now [illegible] we are set up in the big saw mill here [illegible] the ways it isn't bad at all. I guess we are going to move pretty quick. [illegible] I don't know where we are going but [illegible] we will go or a ship. I hope it is the States but I don't think it will be. [illegible] still in New York. I've been [illegible] writer to [illegible] yet [illegible] been over th [illegible] doesn't woork to good [illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] forgot [illegible] [illegible] Well [illegible] practice up on [illegible] now that [illegible] now [illegible] chance though. —

We are suppose to get [illegible] clothes [illegible] [illegible] we are going [illegible] I'll [illegible] be [illegible] a white Christmas [illegible] Ha

If we have to leave here I would just as soon go to Japan as anywhere just to see what it is like there. Might as well see all of the world while we are at it. A lot of the boys say we are going back to the U. S. [illegible] a lot of them say [illegible] myself I don't believe we are [illegible] what to think about the situation.

How is [illegible] football [illegible] I don't [illegible] I [illegible] not [illegible]

[illegible] I don't of course know
made it one way. He
We have about 1700 jobs
with management now. I'm
[illegible] to be pretty - happy
[illegible] he's longer be-
cause they will probably get
some before [illegible]
Well [illegible] write about as well
[illegible] to write about [illegible] a
[illegible] this [illegible]

Sept.22,45
Negros, P.I

Dear Folks

Now is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope As for me I am gust as good as ever.

Guess we are going to move again. This will be one time I can tell you where we Are going. We are going to Yokahama. It is A big Navy base close to Toyko. I don't think we will be there very long.

Is Bob still in New York? I havent heard from him for A long time. If fact I haven't heard from anyone for A long time now. The Mail just isn't coming like it should be.

They think it will take us about fifteen days to get there so if you don't hear from me for A while you don't kneed to worry.

It is suppose to be pretty cold there so maybe we will have A white Christmas. I should be home by next Christmas. Hope so anyway.

We are all packed up ready to go. Think we will leave here day after tomorrow. Might as well see it all while we are over here. I would just as soon os there as here. as long as we have to be over here anyway.

Maybe when we get there we will be able to get A few things that we ~~be-able-to g~~ aren't able to get here.

We haven't seen any shows here for A long tim time now. Sure hope we get to see some before long.

Well there isn't much to write so I will clos for now. Happy birthday Dad. I almost forgot about what being your birthday.

As ever,

Jim

Sept. ,45
Negros

Dear folks

Received your letter yesterday and to hear from you. It has been almost two weeks since I have heard from you.

I suppose Bill is in the Army by n[illegible] If he doesn't have to stay in to long it will be good. Don't think it has hurt me in any [illegible]. I certanly got to see a lot of places that I wouldn't have otherwise.

We may get to see A lot more of [illegible] long. Might as well see it all whil[illegible] it.

How Ma Dad getting alon[illegible] right by now. I have A bad cold ri[illegible] Don't know how I caught it.

We really had A good hard rain [illegible] nite. The sun is shining now and [illegible] will be plenty warm by noon. I don't kno[illegible] it rains the most, Here or New Guinea. B[illegible] places are bad enough.

[illegible] first from him [illegible]

Cpl. James J. Huerter 37735982
Co. D 503 Prcht. Inf.
A.P.O. 715, % P.M.
San Francisco. Calif.

Mr. Emil Huerter

Goff,

KANSAS

Oct. 6, 45
Dumaguete,
Oriental, Negros

Dear Folks

It has been A few days since I have written to you so will try to write A few lines tonight.

We are now across the Island from where we were. The name of the town is Dumaguete. It is A pretty nice place. The prices are quite A bit lower here than they were any place we have been so far.

They also have some very good ice cream here. Sgt. Keller and my self went to town and had A swell time last night. We went had ate some Hamburgers first then some ice cream and later on we went to the show. The name of the show was, "Thender Heads" it was pretty good. They had it in A regular theater in town. They are having A dance and also another show tonight. Maybe Coff won't have such A bad team after all this night but decided to stay home and go to bed early tonight. year. Born Generally has A pretty good team. Hope they go A long way this year.

I got A letter from Lindy the other day and I guess he doesn't think much of Mrs. Shaw as A teacher. He said that Bob was suppose to be on his way home. Hope he gets out of the Navy. Maybe I will get out in about six months. It can isn't so bad now that the war is over. I sure hate to move around all the time. There is to much work to it. Always have to clean off A new area when we move.

We are living in tents again now and as yet haven't gotten any electric lights. They wired the tent today but they can't get the generator to run tonight.

I will send another money order home with this letter and also some mother of pearl. I want you to keep the mother of pearl until I get home and then I am going to get some thing made out of it. There is suppose to be A set for A ring and the others are for ear rings.

Suppose Bill is in the Army by now. Hope he likes it. He might as well learn to like it because you get along better if you do.

How is Uncle Elmer getting along now? I hope he is doing alright now. Mayve he is getting to fat now.

Did you get my last money orders? Be sure to write and tell me when you get them. I never did find out if you got the money I sent home last March 19. It was sent right to the bank in Coff. Please check up on it and see if it got there or not. Also there was one sent Sept. 8.

U.S. ARMY

The one sent Sept. 5 was sent to you. There was one sent a few days before that that I forgot to tear the receipt off of it before I sent it. I don't rember wher it was for $160 or $200. The one sent Sept. 6 was for $100. Please check up on these and let me know what I have in the Bank.

We have the area pretty well cleaned up now but we are suppose to start training Monday. I may not have to do to much of it because my job only calls for taking care of the mail. It takes me about five minutes every day to take care of it. Not bad.

Well there isn't much to write about so had better close for now. Will write some more in a few days.

Love,

Jim

C4

Oct. 16,45
Dumagete,
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

Well I haven't heard from you for quite some time so I will write anyway. How is every one back there now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

Some time if you have A visiter from St. Joe I want you to give him A nice Country dinner. Sgt. Wilson is from St. Joe and Is going home soon and he said that he might stop in to see you. He is A little short boy and is A very good friend of mine. I sure wish that I was going home when w he is but I guess I can't be that lucky.

We have been having quite A few shows here lately and they are getting some of the newer ones. We have A different show almost every night.

Last night we had A company party and dance. We all had A swell time. They had some of the best Ice Cream that I have had for A long time. That is the first time we have ever had A party in the Army where there were more girls than boys. Of course we could of gotten enough boys for the rest of the girls out of other Companies but as long as we were paying for everything we didn't think we should invite anyone else. They are all pretty nice girls and had to have chaperons before they could come.

Most of the girls that were there were from the University. There was one girl that we met in Bago while we were guarding th the bridge there. She was really surprised to see us down here.

Where is Bill at now? I hope that he gets stationed close to home so that he can go home more often that I got to. I haven't heard from Bob for A long time now. I have written to him several times lately.

There have been quite A few boys going home from the Co. and there aren't any more coming in so I guess before long we won't get have A very big Co. The boys with 70 points are waiting to go home now. That is what Wilson has. By the way his first name is Gilbert. When I get home I know for sure that he will be down once in the while.

Whell there isn't much to write about so I will close for now. Hope to hear from you soon.

Love

Jim

Oct. 19, 45
Dumaguete, Orent.
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

After so long of A time the mail started to come through and I got A letter from you. Guess Coffee team isn't much good this year or else Soldier has A real good team.

The boys with 70 points and abouve left for home yesterday. Sure wish I could of gone with them. Most of the boys that are left left here now are boys that came over after I did. The boys that came over when I did are now classed as the old boys in the outfit.

They told us A few days agoe that we would be on our way home some time in the spring. They aren't going to send any more men home from our outfit on the point system. They are going to send them all home as an outfit. I sure hope they don't change their minds again.

Gilbert Wilson left yesterday and he said that he was going to go down and see you as soon as he could. He is a T/sgt. now and we was my platoon Sgt. before I got the job that I have now.

Was glad to hear that Bob Schneider got home. He will get discharged before long probably. When is Bill going to have to go to the Army or is he going to stay home now? I don't know what has happened to Bob. I haven't heard from him for quite some time now. He use to write at least onceem every two weeks.

We have been having quite A bit of fun around here lately. There are having A lot of shows and dances and there are really some nice people here. This is the best place we have been since we left the States.

Probably by the time you get this letter you will have seen some snow. Boy I sure wish we would get to see some this year. It is so darn hot here that when we do get back there it is cold we will probably freeze to death.

There isn't much to write about so will close for now. Hope to hear from you soon.

As Ever,

Jim

P-40 Warhawk

Oct. 24, 45
Dumaguete
Negros

Dear Folks

Well I can now see myself staying over here about anoth
other year. We are getting one of the dirtiest deals any-
one has ever had in the Army. They are going to take us
off of jump pay and send us to the 96 Division.

They are just A new outfit over here and will probably
be over for A few more years. Everyone is so mad that they
don't know what to do. They tell us we are going home and
then they really gite us A raw deal like that. We will lose
$50 and have to stay over here A lot longer. I guess things
are rough all over this year. Ha.

The 96 is now on Mindoro where we started from. That
is where we started one of the worst islands we have
been on. It is almost As bad as New Guinea. I guess it
can't last forever. It isn't so bad now that the war is over

Well how is everyone back there now anyway? Just
fine I hope. Is Bill in the Army yet. If he isn't he had
better stay out now. The way things are going now I wouldn't
advise anyone to get in.

We got to see some good shows over here lately. We
saw "Kiss and tell" also "The George White Scandles" "Men in
her Diary" They were all good shows.

Is Bob still in New Jersey? I haven't heard from him
for quite some time now. Don't know what has happened to
him.

We now have A P. X. where we can buy magazines and
candies. That sure helps to build up our morall. Ha. In all
there they say that the men that have seen combat will be
home for Christmas. That is getting to be quite A joke as
far as we are concerned.

This use to be A good Regement but now all the old
Officers that have seen any combat have gone and the new ones
that just came over afer the fighting was all over have over
and it just isn't worth A DAMN.

Well there isn't much to write about so I will close
for now. Hope the next time I write I can I can write
about something more pleasant.

As Ever

Jim

Oct. 27, 45
Amaguets
Negros, P.I.

Dear folks

Well I have a little extra time so I will try to write a few lines now. How is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

Say is Louie Schmit over here in the Philippines somewhere. I saw in a paper where it said something about a Louie Schmit over here and was wondering if it was the same one.

Can you get any films back there now? If you can I wish that you would get some 127 and send them to me. You can send a roll in an Air Mail envelope. They will get here as soon as a letter would that way. If you can't get any 127 and can get any other size get some of them and send them. I can always borrow a camera and take some pictures.

I heard from Jet. Mouroe a few days ago and I guess that he is a Lt. now. He said that it sure took him a long time to get home because of the transportation but he was sure glad to get there.

Well maybe I will get home some time in March. The 40th is scheuled to go home then. The 50 pointers are all going home with the 50's so I will probably get to come home with the 40. Sure hope so anyway. The worst part of it is that we will loose $50 a month. We won't have to jump anymore though I don't think that I would jump again now that the war is over anyway.

It was alright as long as the war was going on. I would just as soon jump into combat as to make a beach landing. One is just as bad as the other.

Well there isn't much to write about so will close for now. Guess this letter was short and sweet. Well short anyway.

As ever

"Jim"

Nov. 7, 1945

Dear Folks

I don't have much time to write but I want to send you the Company History and I want you to save it for me.

How is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope I am still O.K.

We are suppose to get paid this afternoon so I will send some money home before long.

That close for now.

Will

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF EVENTS
Company "D" 503d Parachute Infantry

1 May 42
Co "A" 504th Prcht. Inf. activated 1201 hr Per Pa. 1 GO No.1 HQ 504th Prcht. Inf., Ft. Benning, Ga., Capt. Ralph R. Bates Commanding. Personnel obtained from Prcht. School Ft. Benning, Ga.

28 June 42
Co. arrived Ft. Mitchell, Ala. from Ft. Benning, Ga. Entrained for Ft. Bragg, N.C.

29 June 42
Co. arrived at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

12 July 42
Co. reached T/O strength of 8 Officers & 119 EM.

9 Oct. 42
Co. left Ft. Bragg, N. C. by rail destination unknown.

15 Oct 42
Detrained at Camp Stoneman, Calif.

19 Oct.
Left Camp Stoneman, Calif. for port of embarkation. Destination unknown.

20 Oct 42
Boarded Army Transports at San Francisco, Calif. Destination Unknown.

30 Oct. 42
Arrived at Balboa, Panama. Remained abord ship. Sailed at 1300 hr. Destination unknown.

2 Dec. 42
Debarked at Cairns, Queensland, Aust. Pitched bivouac at Gordonvale, Queensland, Aust. 1930 hr. Co. Strength was 8 Officers & 119 EM.

31 Dec. 42
"A" Company, 504th Prcht. Inf. redesignated as Company "D", 503 Prcht. Inf. (secret letter WDAGO, file No. AG 320.2 (11-3-42) OB-1-E-M dated Nov. 6, 1942) Strength 8 Off. & 119 EM.

19 Aug 43
Co. left Gordonvale, Queensland, via truck to Cairns airport where it emplaned at 0600 hr. Arrived Port Moresby, New Guinea at 100 hr. Strength at this time was 6 Off. & 109 EM.

5 Sept 43
Co. made its first combat jump at Gabjoukek, west of the Japanese Garrison at Lae, in the Markham Valley, New Guinea at 1000 hr. 6 Officers & 105 EM junped. "D" Co as part of the 503 Prcnt. Inf. Regt. had the mission of jumping in the Markham Valley and setting up a defensive perimeter around the airstrip at Gabjoukek, Ne Guinea. Pvt. Elmore wounded accidently was the only casulty. Duration of campaign was 12 days, although the Lae and Salamua battles continued. Authority for this jump cut off the left flank withdrawal of the enemy forces through the Markham Valley, came from HQ 503d Prcht. Inf. Regt.

16 Sept. 43
3rd Platoon emplaned and returned to Port Moresby, New Guinea.

17 Sept. 43
Co. Flew from Markham Valley to Port Moresby, New Guinea.

19 Sept. 43
Capt. Bates transferred from duty and command of company. 1st Lt. Cole took command of company.

3 Nov. 43
1st Lt. Cole commanding company promoted to Captain.

11 Feb 44
Co. left Port Moresby by Army Transport for ne station.

17 Feb. 44
Arrived in Brisbane, Qld. Aust. Harbor 0500hr. Moved by truck to new station, Camp Cable.

5 April 44
Co. left Camp Cable by truck and boarded Army Transport at Birsbane [illegible] Aust. Harbor for new station.

14 April 44
Debarked at Dobadura, New Guinea. Pitch Bivouac at new station.

4 June 44
Co left camp via truck to ariport where it emplaned at 0515hrs. Arrived at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea at 1115hr. Moved via truck to new camp site.

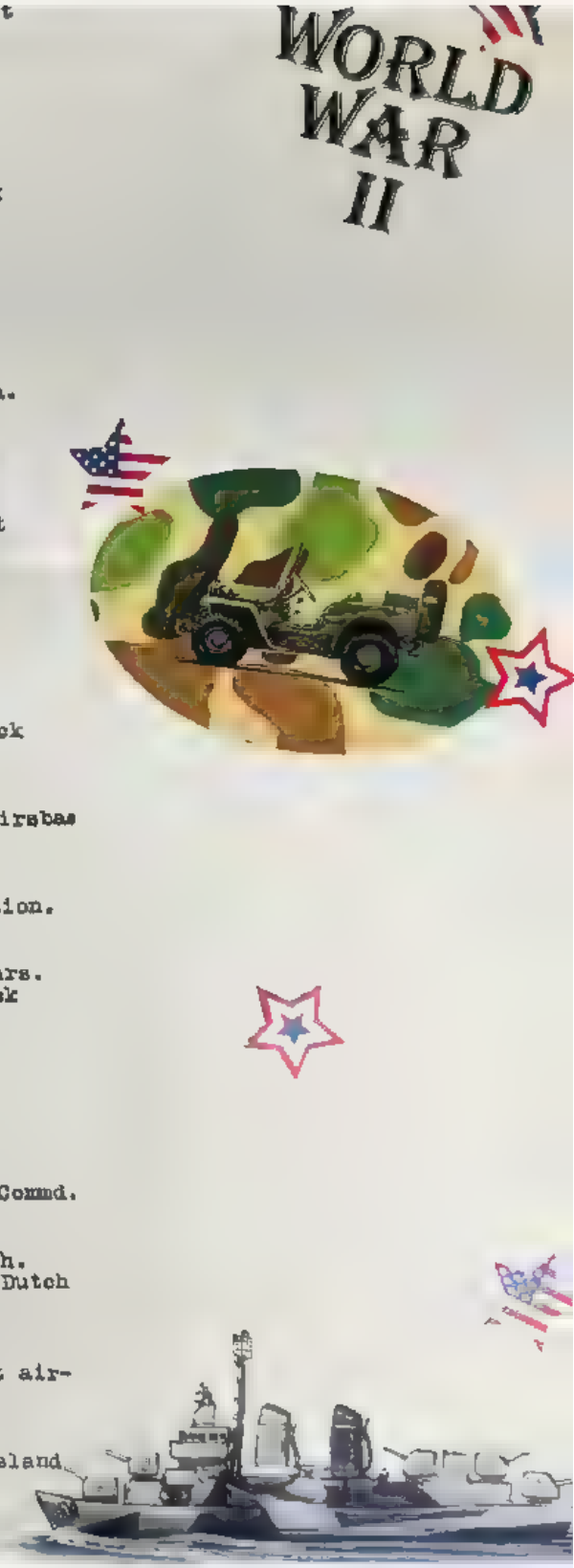
15 June 44
Co. left camp and moved to Pie Beach, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. Boarded LCT and moved to new area at Hollonick Beach, 47 miles away.

16 June 44
Co. performed Guard Duty at 6th Army HQ. Lt. Gene. Krueger Commd.

30 June 44
Broke camp and boarded LCT at 1030hr. and moved to Pie Beach. Then via truck to new camp site at Ebeli Plantation, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

8 July 44
Co. broke camp and moved via truck to airport. Remained at airport.

9 July44
Emplaned 0600hr at Hollandia Airport, and Arrived at Biak Island 0830 hr. March 2 mi to Bivouac.



10 July 44
Co. Boarded LCI 1700hr. at Biak, And sailed 1500hr. Destination Noemfoor Island, Dutch New Guinea.

11 July 44
Debarked at Noemfoor Island, Dutch New Guinea.

12 July 44
Co entered combat with Capt. Mead Commanding and killed five enemy on rough cross country trail. Arrived at Inasi Village.

13 July 44 to 1 Aug 44
Contact with enemy consisting mostly of patrols, Enemy casualties 4 Off. and 77 EM KIA with 3 EM captured. Co. suffered casaulties of 2 Off. and 3 EM KIA and 2 EMWIA.

2 Aug.44
Left Inasi Village, Noemfoor Island 1000hr. Arrived at Namber Drome, Noemfoor 1400hr. Pitched Camp.

25 Aug. 44
One of our patrols killed 2 enemy

28 Aug. 44
Co. left Namber Drome. Boarded LXM arrived at Kamiri Drome, noemfoor Island 1530hr. Moved via truck to permanent camp site 6 miles from airport.

20 Oct. 44
T/O changed from 10 Off. and 156 EM to 6 Off. & 125 EM.

23 Oct. 44
A formal ceremony participated in by all units of the 503 Remimental Combat Team, was held on the 23d Oct. 1944 for presentation of these awards. Memorial services for the Noemfoor Island campaign were held the same date at the Noemfoor Island Cemetry.
~~During the Noemfoor Island~~

31 Oct 44
Co completed training program.

1 Nov 44
Spent in issuing individual equipment, packing & crating of Co equipment.

8 Nov 44
Broke camp at Kamiri Drome 1000hr. Moved via truck to beach Boarded LCVP. Moved out in harbor and boarded USS Custer 1300hr.

9 Nov 44
Still aboard USS Custer waiting to sail. Destination Unknown.

14 Nov 44
Sailed from Noemfoor Island. Destination Unknown.
15 Nov thru 17 Nov 44
Aboard USS Custer. Food was very good. Morale was very high during entire trip.

18 Nov 44
Arrived Taragona Leyte, PI 0600 hr distanced traveled by boat 970 miles. Helped to load equipment from ship on to LCVP. Disembarked 1300 and unloaded equipment from LCVP until 1600hr Pitched Camp 1700.

19 to 10Dec.
Co did regular camp duties and staged for their next mission.

11 Dec 44
Co boarded LCI 758. Company broke camp and boarded LCI at 0900. Sailed from Taragoan 1030 and dropped anchor at Tacloban harbor at 1200.

12 to 14 Dec 44
Aboard LCI headed for Mindoro.

15 Dec 44
After a heavy bombardment by Navy ships Co landed on White Beach. Co moved toward San Jose and as they were advancing the Jap air Force struck the Naval Convoy and set one LST on fire. Co went through San Jose and set up a perimeter at 1530 noth of the city. No enemy contacted.

16 Dec. 44
Co moved further north and set up a new perimeter in the foothills. No enemy contacted.

17 Dec 44
Co moved back to former positions and set up their perimeter. This perimeter was located on the Bugsanga River.

18 Dec 44
Co sent out several local patrols but no enemy contacts were made.

19 Dec 44
Co moved back toward beach and set up perimeter near San Agustus. no enemy contacted.

20 Dec thru 22 Dec
Co on perimeter, sent out local patrols but no enemy were contacted.

23 Dec 44
Co moved across the Bugsanga River in a Northwestern direction and set up a new perimeter. The 1st plt remained back to go on a three day patrol.

23 Dec 44thru 25 Dec. 44
Co on perimeter and no enemy activity. The 1st plt rejoined the Co on the 24th and had made no enemy contacts.

~~23,x24x&25xDec44~~
26 Dec 44
Co ~~xx~~ remained on perimeter. Small patrols were sent out with no enemy contacted. During the night the Co was under a Jap Naval Task Force Bombardment for 45 minutes. No casualties were suffered.

27 thru 30 Dec 44
Co remained on perimeter. Small patrols were sent out but no enemy were contacted.

31 Dec 44
Co moved back across the Bugsanga River and occupied perimeter which they had occupied "U" Day.

1 Jan thru 30 Jan. 45
Co sent out several small patlolls but no enemy contacted. Finally set up permanent camp site near the Capitol , San Jose. where they stayed until ~~the~~ Feb. 16, 1945.

Dec. 5, 1945
Maruoka, Japan

Dear Folks.

Well We are now in Japan & have been for about a week now. We are in the 11th Airborne now instead of the 503rd.

I have run across several of the boys that came over seas with me. We had our Thanksgiving dinner the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We really had quite a dinner though. Turkey with all the stuff to go with it.

The Company Commander is renting my typewriter so now I have to use a pen I have almost forgot how to write.

We are living in some Japanese School rooms here. They must have been put up in a hurry as they are just stuck together. We have a lot of stoves though so when it gets a little colder we just put up a

another stove. It hasn't been to cold here yet but there is about a foot of snow out now. This is the first snow I have seen since I have been in the Army ~~to~~ after I left Fort Riley. Was sure glad to see some snow again.

Say if you can get any 127 films I wish you would send me some. Don't send anything with them & send them by Air Mail they will get here pretty quick that way.

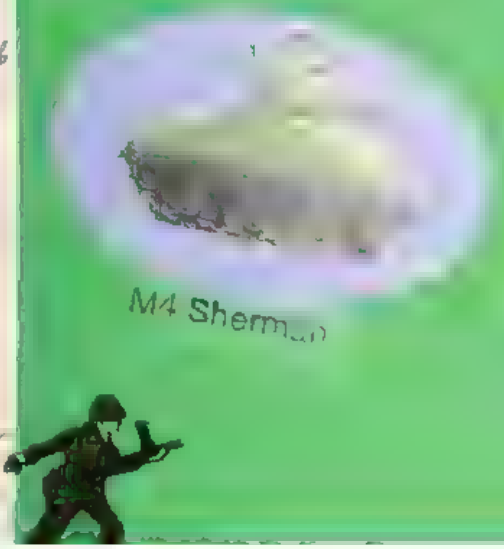
I haven't gotten any mail since I have been here & don't expect to get any for awhile It seems like I always have to start moving ~~when I get~~ I have some packages on the way.

Now I will tell you about the job I have here I am working for the Red Cross. About all I have to do is take care of the gas cooking stoves going & make the coffee. We start serving coffee in the morn at 8 30 until 10 30 afternoon from 1:00 until 3:30 at night from 7:30 until 9:30. I have

be around here most of the time but we have
8 Jpe to do the work. We have six Japanese
girls that work in the day time & also four men
& also we are going to have two or three girls
work at night. They serve the Coffee & wash
the Cups

Today one of them brought a bunch of
picture post cards for another boy & my self. They
are some real nice ones. We'll send them
home when we get them decided. It is
a good job I really have to do more work
at this than I did when I was a mail Clerk
but it gets old when you lay around all
day. I like it anyway

What has been going on back there lately?
Have you had much more rain back there in
I don't know when I will get back there but will
surely be there by the time next year I am getting
so disgusted. They keep lowering the points so
the boys wont go home. They have 7 now
to 35 now but the disappointed they wont let us



4

Have you heard from Bob lately? I haven't heard from him for a long time now. Ma he is pretty busy down there. I know I am at times. This is the first letter I have written since I have been here

We are stationed just out of a town ca "Marioaka up in the Northern part of Hon It is about the same climate as they have in Sothern Alaska.

Well there isn't to much to write abo as I haven't been in town yet. After I go town I will write & tell you what it is like. Will write some more later.

Love

Jim

Pfc James J. Huerter
Co "A" 511th Prcht Regt
APO 468, C/o P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.

AP

Dec. 13. 1945
Maruoka, Japan

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time tonite so I will write you a few lines. How is everyone back home now? Just fine I hope. I am still A.O.K. & am getting rid of my Cold now & am feeling pretty good.

I am sending a picture that was taken here in the Red Cross & was in the Japanese News Papers. We didnt make the front page though. Darn it. We It is also supposed to be in the Paper put out by the 11th Airborn

A.P. mail has started catching up with us now. I got four letters yesterday. I was very surprised as I thought it would take a little longer to get here Hope I get some packages soon.

Well you send me some stuff to eat Something like Cheese in a Can, & some stuff

Also send me some Cough drops & Nose drops like that. If you send it in cans it gets here in a lot better shape. Also send me some films if you can get them. Send them in a small package & by Air Mail. One of the boys that works here gets a lot of packages from his wife so we have something to eat every night before we go to bed. He is really a swell boy.

Say if Hilbert Wilson does come down tell him I have the negatives of those films & I will send them to you & you can have some prints made & send them to him. They all belong to him anyway. There are some of the other boys that want a set of them also. When I send them I will send you the address of the boys that want them.

It has been snowing here for the last three or four days now. It hasn't been very cold though. Of course I don't get out very much but it is pretty warm inside.

[illegible] how many points I had. Well I can't tell you as I don't know for sure. I think I have 39 or 40. I guess it will be a while before I get home. It isn't to bad here. We are living in pretty nice buildings & stay nice & warm.

Is it pretty cold back there now? Guess it is getting about time for it to start getting cold.

I didn't know until a few days ago that I am getting paid a little extra for working here. I think we get about $15 [illegible] $1,[illegible] [illegible] a month. That isn't so bad for a month.

[illegible]

Send some Hankerchiefs I need them bad

Veterans share stories of war, storms, fatigue

[illegible] from [illegible] to freezing boredom in Korea. But one thing they all shared was a sense of duty when called to arms by their country.

Following are a series of short stories told by locals who did their best when it counted.

By Yvonne Diehl

James Huerter

As a member of the 503rd parachute Infantry during W.W.II, James Huerter was one of the first American soldiers to invade the Philippine Islands.

Huerter enlisted in February of 1944 and after training, was sent to New Guinea. From there he went to the Philippines and landed on Mindoro Island.

In February of 1945, Huerter loaded up and jumped on Corregidor, located near the Philippine Islands and called the "gateway to the Manila Bay." It was more or less a giant fortified rock with large gun emplacements.

Jumping onto Corregidor was difficult because the United States had blown the entire top side of "The Rock", in order to wipe out the Japanese soldiers who were stationed there.

This made it difficult to land, due to the large bomb craters and sharp tree shrubs. Several soldiers were injured during this jump.

While patrolling on Corregidor, Huerter and his troop were caught in a hail of Japanese gun fire coming from cliffs above. He was injured when a piece of shrapnel tore through his back.

In addition to that injury Huerter also was hurt on Negros Island when he stumbled on a knee mortar.

He remembers when General Douglas MacArthur made his famous re-entry to the Philippines, after vowing he would return. Huerter was part of a detail that guarded a road used by "Mac". "We were supposed to face out and see that there weren't any Japanese, but we turned around when he came by," he said.

JAMES HUERTER

Dec 25, 1945
Moriokay Japan

Dear Folks

How is every one back there now after the ~~ten~~ Holidays? Just fine I hope. I am just as good or bad as I was before. I didn't get to do any Celebrating this year. I had to help to try and keep the rest of the boys happy by making doughnuts & Coffee for them. I did enjoy myself though. I didn't get to go to Church though that is what I hate worse than anything.

If I could have gotten some mail this would have been a good Christmas. We had the snow & Cold weather which we didn't have last year. That sure helps to make it seem like Christmas.

We had a very good dinner today. All the turkey we could eat & every thing to go with it. Some of the girls at Kobe sent us some presents so we can say we didn't get no presents. I got some of them

gave me a nice pillow, another a small lam
desk, another a picture, one a fan & a doll, an
another a kimono. They are all real nice b
the kimono is the most expensive. They
cost about $30 or 45 ~~yen~~ yen. I don't k
whether I should wait & bring them hom
with me when I come or try to send them

What did every one back there get fo
Christmas? You wrote & ask me when I th
I would be home & how many points I had
Well I don't know how many points I h
now they keep changing them all the t
I did have 44 at one time. When we
in the 503 they gave us 5 points for "Me
Guenea" & when we got here they took th
away from us. We weren't in a combat are
there so we didn't deserve them.

Well there isn't much to write
about so I will close for now.

Love

Jim

Jan 7, 1946
Morioka, Japan

Dear Folks

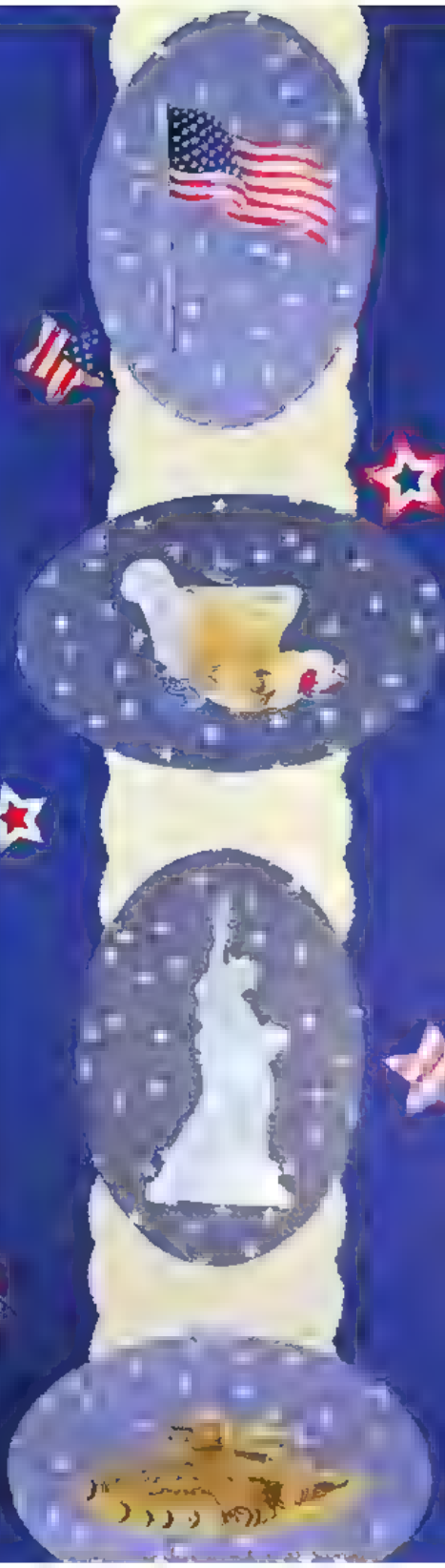
Well I have a little extra time now so I will write a few lines.

We had quite a bit of excitement here a few nights ago. We had a big fire here. The building alle all farened together & I thought the hole place would burn. We moved all our personal stuff out & then got all the Red Cross stuff out. By the time we got it all moved out the fire was only about 30 yds from our part of the building. We then started fighting the fire & got it stopped about 20 yds from our part of the building. If there hadn't of been about 2 feet of snow on all the roofs the place would have all burned down. A lot of the boys lost every thing but the Clothes they had on

As soon as we saw the Red Cross wasn't going to burn we sta to move the stuff back in & to mo Coffee. The place was really in mess as we had moved out in a hurry. We started serving about six in the morning & served until ten that nite.

Now I will tell you about th New Year. Charlie, the other boy th works here with me, & I was invited out to a home for dinner.

When we got the we had ~~tak~~ ~~an~~ ~~shower~~ ~~off~~ ~~before~~ ~~we~~ ~~went~~ ... house. The woman that met us at the door got down on the floor & ba at us as we went in. Instead of how stoves they have what is called a Cho put in the middle of the floor wit a ~~f~~ blanket over it. They gave a pillow to set on & you put your f



[illegible] to keep it from [illegible]
Well our feet kept warm but the rest
of us almost froze.

~~Finally we had~~ had a cup of hot tea.
[illegible] they served us dinner. Believe
it or not I had to eat with chop-
sticks. I got pretty good with them
[illegible] it was a challenge. I can now pick
up three beans at a time with them.
It was [illegible] different kinds of
fish, of course some rice. Tangerines
apples. A some more stuff. I don't know
what it was but it was all good. It
[illegible]

But we were both feeling pretty
good. We really had a small time tonight.
The woman who acted as our waitress
[illegible] for us. It's [illegible] really [illegible]
[illegible] stuff [illegible]
[illegible]

Fletcher Class Destroyer

Well how is everyone back there after all the Celebrating? Just fine I hope.

I see by the papers that the situation will be slowed up quite a bit. Guess that means that I will be over here that much longer. It isn't so bad though. Guess I'm told out for a while yet. I am now going on my fifteenth month. It doesn't seem so long though.

Well that's about all the news for now so I will close for now

Love
Jim

P.S. I am now in France

[illegible]

It is it has been quite a [illegible]
[illegible] but adv[illegible]
this extra time I will write [illegible]
[illegible]

It has turned cold this [illegible]
snow quite as often as it does [illegible]
took some more pictures today [illegible]
[illegible] when it got [illegible]
[illegible] shows [illegible]
[illegible] the time

I don't know what [illegible]
[illegible] by getting two
[illegible]
[illegible]

are leaving tomorrow. Sure do wish I was going with them. I sure make you feel funny when all your old pals leave. It wouldn't seem funny to leave also. At least they say it isn't.

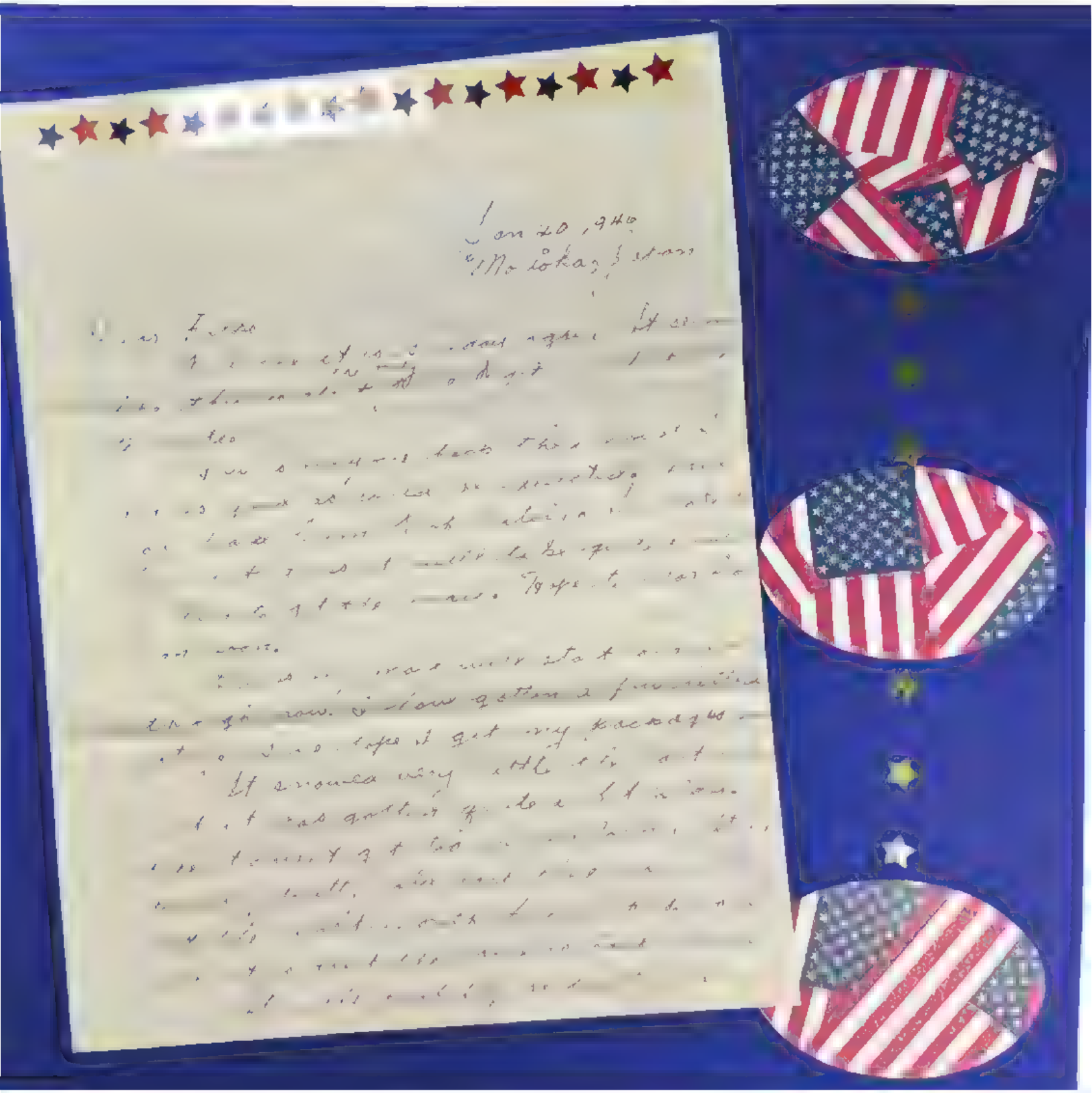
You are going back home now? Just fine I hope. I am still P.H. I have a sore throat but it isn't bad. Will get rid it soon.

I got all my hair cut off a few days ago. It sounds foolish but that is an order to keep your hair an inch long. Guess you are just supposed to keep here. I don't have to get out in the cold very much though. That is one lucky thing.

Well there isn't much to write about so will close for now.

Love,

[illegible]

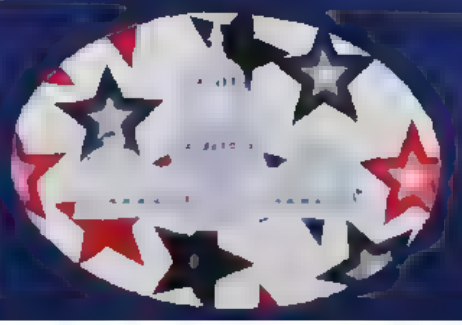


[illegible] I got home I would very much like to [illegible] in front of the [illegible] but I won't [illegible] I know it was there will always be a place in my heart for it.

It seems like the longer I am [illegible] the less there is to write about. I can't think of anything else so will close for now.

Lots of love

Gene



COMPANY "D"
503 PARACHUTE INFANTRY
UNIT HISTORY

16 Feb. 45

Co. broke camp 0930 moved via truck to Hill Strip, Mindoro Island, and emplaned at 1115. Co jumped on Corregidor Island at 1200. Met negligible ground resistance. Lt. Cote, Bitu, Dablock, Joyce, Ackerly, Clearwater, Gray, Schupp, Ziroll, Howard, R. Hunt, Irwin, Jacobs, Neal, Shook were injured of the jump. Very high wind and rough terrain made jumping hazardous. Co moved out and set up parameter above the breakwater south of Corregidor Light House. No enemy contacted.

17 Feb. 45

Took pillbox suffering six casualties. Pucci, Combs, Hess, Verdail and Kayberry were wounded during the assault. Sanguinetti was lightly wounded by schrapnel prior to the patrol. The platoon occupied the pillbox and during the night some ammo which had been lying in the pillbox exploded killing Belane and causing the platoon to evacuate the position. Approximately 60 Japs were killed during the day. Co was running short of food and water.

18 Feb. 45

A platoon was sent out to relieve the platoon set up in the pillbox. Air Corps bombed and strafed enemy positions on shore line just below Co. CP. One napon bomb overshot the target and landed about 30 yds. From Co. CP but no one was injured. Ammo dump on hill overlooking Co. CP blew up at 2315. Co moved and set up parameter above Wheeler Point. The 2nd Platoon, led by Lt. Preston, went into the ravine below Crockett Battery and found C.C. Martin and F. Keller both of whom had been injured on the jump.

19 Feb. 45

At 0430 Japs made "Banzi" attack on Company CP. Japs came out of caves along shore and came up through ravines. They took the high ground above the CP and started charging. About half of the men on perimeter were killed by infiltrating Japs. The rest of the perimeter withdrew closer to the Co. CP which was set up in a plotting room. This plotting room was on Wheeler Point and had observation on three sides overlooking the water and no point of observation overlooking the land. To observe what was taking place to the front, the observer had to be either alongside the plotting room or on top of it. When Japs came up the ravine the CP group were cut off from the supporting fire of the LNG's which were in a big gun position with the 2nd and 3rd platoons. Lt. Turinsky, Schmiddle, Arnold, Wenditz, Seal, Foley, Leshinski, Maddy, Schwartz, R. Keller, Bracklein, Marsh and Golonka were killed in action and Lantis, McDonald, Brown, Dolan, Larcher, Majda, Sanchez, Webber, Gorlinski, Howell, Hughart and Martinez were wounded during the attack. Approximately 150 Japs were killed during the attack. The Co moved the perimeter to a spot in the ravine 50 yds. below western end of drill field. While setting up the perimeter Arbuckle was wounded by a Jap who crawled from beneath a parachute and fired at him.

20 Feb. 45

Co occupied perimeter about 50 yds. below western end of drill field. Patrols were sent out and they blew up one small tunnel.

21 Feb. 45

The company went out to clean Japs out of the ravine below the big gun position and to clean out the caves along the water edge. A field artillery and mortar preparation was fired before the company moved out and at 0830 the company moved into the ravine. About a third of the way down the ravine four Japs were found hiding under a culvert and killed. Two more were found in a pillbox further down the trail and killed. A Jap watering point was found which was much better than former points. As the patrol continued down the trail barbed wire entanglements and land mines were encountered. Six Jap anti-aircraft guns were also found. About 20 well armed Japs were encountered in a cave along the water edge. One squad approached the cave from one side. During the attack Pvt. Brady was killed and Lt. Buchanan and Bowers, atchd medic, were wounded. About 26 Japs were killed and two tunnels were blown. Co tied in with "E" Co and set up a perimeter along the shore. No night activity.

22 Feb. 45

Co patrolled through ravine below big gun position and down to the beach. They worked along the shore toward Wheeler Point. They blew up several caves and tunnels and killed two unarmed Japs. Co suffered no casualties.

23 Feb. 45

Co patrolled through to 1st Bn. No activity.

24 Feb. 45

Co went on a patrol into the same area which "E" Co. had patrolled the day before. They patrolled the area below Btry Chiney and then along the shore to "Banzi" point. The Co moved around the point below Btry Cheney and met enemy resistance. Part of the Co moved up along the high ground cleaning out several caves along the way. Pfc. McCarey was killed and Drews and F. Keller were lightly wounded. The casualties were withdrawn to the beach and evacuated by LCM. Co proceeded to "Banzi" Point cleaning out several more caves along the way. When the Co started back they were pinned down by MG and sniper fire. The MGs and snipers were in caves on a hillside and could not be seen. They had the Co's route of withdrawal covered and supporting fire from ridges was very ineffective. The Co called on LCM's to take them off the beach and started withdrawing toward the beach. Holt and Combes were killed and Puckett died of wounds. Finckler, Kurtz, Christian, Rabe, Jenkins and Rickard were wounded during the withdrawal. The Co moved up to the rear of 2nd Bn Hq for a rest. Approximately 20 Japs were killed during the day.

25 Feb. 45

Co occupied perimeter in rear of Bn CP taking a rest. No enemy activity.

26 Feb. 45

Two patrols sent to southern end of island. No enemy contacted.

27 Feb. 45

The Co patrolled the shoreline along Cape Corregidor. Two enemy killed but the Co suffered no casualties. The Co moved perimeter to old position in ravine at west end of drill field.

28 Feb. 45
The Co sent out a patrol to burn and bury Jap bodies. No enemy contacted.

1 March 45
No enemy contacted by local patrols. Policed area for expected inspection by General McArthur.

2 March 45
Co stationed along General McArthur's route at Middleside.

3 March 45
No enemy activity.

4 March 45
No enemy activity.

5 March 45
One squad attended Memorial Services for 503rd dead.

6 March 45
No enemy activity. Ordnance inspection.

7 March 45
No enemy activity Rgtl ammo dump burned.

8 March 45
0730 moved by truck to South Dock. Boarded LSI 545 at 1500 and sailed at 1700.

9 March 45
Landed on Mindoro at White Beach at 1400. Moved to Begl area.

10 March 45 thru 6 April 45
Training. Received replacements.

7 April 45
Moved by C-46 to Iloilo, Panay. Loaded on LCI and reached Pulupandan, Negros at 1800. Bivouacced in Town Square.

8 April 45
Co moved to Hapilas River by truck. A perimeter was set up in the morning and in the afternoon security patrols were sent out approximately 100 yds. No enemy contacted.

9 April 45
Third Platoon under Lt. Watkins patrolled area for 1500 yds S of Co perimeter from 0900 to 1145. No enemy contacted. At 1745 seven rounds of enemy 49 mm AA were received. Pvt. Macke was slightly wounded by schrapnel.

10 April 45
At 0900 the Co, under Co. Lt. Nickle, started South on patrol. At 1130 2nd Plt Co, Lt. Preston, observed enemy AA fire bursting in vicinity of Bn CP and located approximate

position of enemy Btry. Arty fwd obs, Lt. Hennessy, directed encounter Btry fire without results. Co returned to perimeter at 1800 without contacting enemy.

11 April 45

At 0800 Co entrucked and moved four miles E relieving "E" Co. Security patrols were sent out and discovered three enemy killed by arty or mortar fire. At 2300 Jap patrol contacted perimeter. One enemy KIA.

12 April 45

Co advanced E on foot approx 100 yds and received enemy AW fire. Pvt Ross wounded in leg. At 1300 LMGs fired on enemy positions with no visible effects.

13 April 45

Co relieved by "F" Co and moved approx 900 yds N and set up perimeter.

14 April 45

At 0930 1st plt, under Lt. Mara with 20 guerillas atchd moved out to patrol the S bank of the Mulago R. Patrol returned at 1430 having contacted no enemy. The remainder of the Co under the Co. Lt. Nickle, crossed the Mulaga R to patrol the Manzanares area. At 1300 the patrol received sniper fire but the enemy could not be located. No casualties resulted. At 1400 patrol recovered body of "E" Co soldier killed 13 April at Manzanares. Patrol returned at 1600.

15 April 45

At 0830 one squad, under Lt. Preston, with 22 Guerillas atchd patrolled area 100 yds NE of perimeter. Patrol returned at 1300 having made no enemy contacts.

16 April 45

Patrol scheduled to cross Mulaga R but was postponed because of heavy rain.

17 April 45

3rd Plt. Under Lt. Watkins, with one section LMGs, one section of 60 mm mortars and 65 guerillas crossed Mulaga R at 0900. At 1500 approx 300 yds N of the Co Filipino civilians were questioned and gave information that approx 400 enemy had moved through the area during the past week. They also stated that Jap foraging patrols were common in the area. Patrol set up perimeter at check point. During night interdictory 81 mm and 69 mm mortar fire was used by patrol. No known enemy casualties.

18 April 45

At 0830 patrol moved E. At 1230 a squad of atchd guerillas engaged two enemy snipers killing a Jap officer. Squad received AW fire from 100 yds S wounding two guerillas. The 1st and 2nd squads under Sgt. Hadrava, engaged the enemy killing three and neutralizing the AW fire. As the patrol reorganized intense knee mortar and small arms fire were received. Pfc. Sierra, Pvt Kimball and four guerillas being lightly wounded 9mm fire directed by Pfc. Bates was effective to a degree but there were no confirmed enemy casualties. The patrol withdrew upon receiving sniper fire from the right flank. Before recrossing the Mulaga R, Lt. Watkins directed fire of two tanks on the enemy positions but fire was ineffective due to a masking ridge. Patrol returned at 1830

19 April 45

At 0900 Co moved 3 miles E on foot to relieve "H" Co. At 1500, while acting as observers for mortar fire, S/Sgt Hadrava was wounded in both arms and Pfc Grey was wounded in left shoulder by enemy AW fire. At 1600 Pvt Cousineau accidentally shot himself in the foot. At 2230 approx 15 enemy attempted infiltration, estimated four enemy casualties.

20 April 45

At 1150 3rd plt, under Lt. Watkins, attacked and secured ridge to left front of Co. No resistance encountered but intensive heavy mortar fire was received during attack. No casualties resulted. At 1130 2nd plt under Lt. Preston, advanced on hill to the right front. Intensive knee mortar fire was received killing Plt Sgt. Rabe, wounding Lt. Preston in leg and Pvt. Ladig suffered shell shock. Pfc Huerter was wounded a few minutes later. The plt was forced to withdraw. At 1330 the 1st plt, under Co Lt Nickle and Plt Ldr Lt. Mara, secured the hill and advanced to the next hill on the right front. Only mild resistance was encountered on the assault but as soon as the hill was secured the enemy countered with very intensive MG and small arms fire from the front and both flanks supplemented by mortar fire. A mortar shell killed Lt. Nickle, amputated t/4 Upchurch's leg causing him to bleed to death and slightly wounded Pfc. McLaughlin. Lt. David's body was on the forward slope in an exposed position and Pfc Schupp and Pfc Fischer were wounded by enemy fire upon trying to recover the body. Pvt. Lapidos received a bullet wound in the neck causing his death two days later. At 1400 the 3rd Plt joined the 1st, one squad, under Sgt Minor aided in securing of the ridge and the other two squads, under Sgt. Eveleth and Sgt. Stowe acted as litter bearers. Lt. Collins assumed command of the Co. At 1430 the 3rd plt, under sporadic MG and small arms fire continued throughout the day. At 1700 one plt of "E" Co advanced to forward positions for support of "D" Co but was repulsed by hand grenades and small arms fire. At 2100 in an unsuccessful enemy attack on a MG position one enemy was killed. Mortar fire continued throughout the night.

21 April 45

At 0400 several Japs including a LMG squad, attacked the Co position and succeeded in entering one of the forward trenches, killing Sgt. Zirco and Cpl Bokencamp. One enemy was killed but several other enemy casualties were unconfirmed. Sporadic small arms fire continued throughout the day. At 1330 Sgt. Cleres was killed by a sniper while observing mortar fire.

22 April 45

At 0530 a short round from "E" Co 69 mm mortars landed by the atchd MG plt killing Pfc Alexander and Pfc. Hendricks and seriously wounding Sgt. Pittneger and Pvt. Jackson, all atchd from HQ Co 2nd Bn. At 0450 the 3rd plt with LMG squad atchd, under Lt Watkins, attacked the ridge 200 yds to the left front with fire support of Arty, Atchd, 50 cal MGs 81 mm mortars, 60 mm mortars and small arms fire of both D and E Co. Enemy heavy mortar fire was received by the attacking plt but no casualties resulted. At 0600 the 1st plt under Lt. Mara, moved to the ridge to the direct front followed by the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, which moved along the ridge to join the 3rd plt. St. Stowe, of the 2nd plt and Pfc Seims, acting as mortar observer, wounded by enemy MG fire the position was being secured. The enemy continued to place knee mortar fire on the company but no casualties resulted. At 1330 "F" Co notified D Co that two Japs were observed in a cave on the forward slope of that ridge D Co was occupying. Five men from the 2nd plt under Pvt Drew assaulted the cave and killed the enemy. The patrol then moved up the road for

reconnaissance. Approx 50 yds to the front the patrol received withering enemy rifle fire from concealed positions which killed Drew and forced the remaining men to withdraw. With fire support from their entire Co a volunteer group of five men under Sgt Minor and Dolan recovered Pvt Drew's body. The taking of these two ridges allowed for the recovery of Lt David's body.

23 April 45

At 0505 an enemy counter attack with covering mortar and HMG fire was repelled by hand grenades and small arms fire. The Co received no casualties and only one enemy officer confirmed killed. At 1100 the 3rd squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Williams acted as security for mine detecting party forward on the road. Security patrols from the 1st and 2nd plt recovered and unidentified American soldier's body but no enemy were contacted. At 1400 small arms and MG fire dispersed what appeared to be an assembly for an enemy Bonzai attack. Pfc Krause LWA by enemy sniper fire at 1345. No enemy activity during the night.

24 April 45

At 1400 two tanks were brought up to deliver supporting art fire on enemy positions to D Co front. Enemy arty secured a hit on one of the tanks but was immediately neutralized. At 1745 two short arty rounds landed inside the perimeter wounding Pvt Hardy in the arm. During the night several enemy infiltrations were repulsed.

25 April 45

At 0545 enemy again attempted to infiltrate but were driven off by automatic weapons fire. One enemy confirmed killed. At 0900 E and F Co moved NE along road to D Co front. At 1400 the Co less the 3rd plt moved to a ridge approx 400 yds to the direct front without opposition. At 1630 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, joined the Co and then continued to the next ridge for reconnaissance. On reaching the top of the ridge the patrol came upon an enemy HMG squad and several supporting pillboxes. The patrol killed two enemy and then withdrew under AW fire. Pvt. Fitchford was killed and Pvt. Ozarzek LW by enemy sniper fire. Both were MGrs atchd from Hq Co. At 1745 Lt Beatty, in command of atchd Mgs LWA by enemy sniper fire. During the night several attempted infiltrations were repulsed. No casualties.

26 April 45

One enemy LIA attempting night infiltration. At 1130 after an arty and mortar barrage the 1st plt under Lt. Mara advanced to the ridge to the Co right front (SE). The 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard moved to the 1st plt left flank and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved to the right flank. Resistance was light and Pvt Reynolds was the only casualty being slightly wounded with head wounds. Nineteen enemy KIA. Demolitions were used during the day to destroy enemy pillboxes and caves. Shortly after dusk as three atchd arty MGr were setting out booby traps, one enemy attempting to infiltrate activated one of the traps killing himself and seriously wounding two of the arty men. The wounded were evacuated during the night. At 2300 an attempted enemy infiltration was repulsed and two enemy were KIA.

27 April 45

At 1100 Pvt Elias was wounded in the left shoulder by enemy sniper fire. No other enemy contacts were made.

28 April 45

At 1245 after an arty and mortar preparation the Co advanced through F Co perimeter to secure a ridge junction 800 yds to the front. The 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, moved up the ridge on the right with the 1st plt under Lt Mara on the right ridge and in the intervening valley. As the 2nd plt advanced they received intensive small arms fire from both flanks. Small arms fire from the 3rd plt neutralized fire from the left and 60 mm mortars silenced the fire on the right. In the advance Pfc Jackson was KIA and Pfc Benci was wounded in the wrist and leg, both by enemy snipers. When the 1st plt was stopped by small arms fire a heavy concentration of enemy mortar fire wounded Lt. Mara in the legs, Pvt Raines in the hip, Pvt Verdell in the arms and foot and Pvt Hall in the back. Lt Mara was also wounded in the neck by rifle fire and Pvt Jones was hit in the leg. The 3rd plt moved over to the 1st plt position, incorporated the remainder of the 1st plt as a squad under S/Sgt Davis and with the aid of the 2nd plt of Co E which was attacking on D Co left flank, overran the Jap position.The 3rd plt then continued on along the valley to the ridge junction. Pfc Sierra and S/Sgt Van Horne were LWA by enemy hand grenades. Sgt Konier of atch MGs was wounded in the hand by rifle fire. After the position was secured E Co dug in on the left with D Co in the center and forward and D Co on the right rear. Enemy sniper fire continued throughout the day. At 1630 D Co received 10 replacements 9 of which went to the combined 1st and 3rd plt and 10 of which went to the 2nd. Occasional enemy mortar fire was received during the night but no D Co casualties.

29 April 45

F Co moved forward. Sporadic enemy sniper fire was received during the day but no casualties resulted.

30 April 45

At 0900 the 3rd plt under Lt Watkins, reconnoitered the area 100 yds to the right flank (SE). Patrol returned at 1500 and Ba Demo squad destroyed enemy positions in the bivouac area. Interdictory mortar flares were used during the night.

1 May 45

At 0900 one squad of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard patrolled area 800 yds t find route across Malago R but returned at 1430 with the report the cliff along the river were impassable. No enemy contacted.

2 May 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Collins whith Lt. Watkins and 7 men moved NE along the road for the purpose of finding a location for a plt outpost. Approx 900 yds from the perimeter the group was ambushed by several enemy armed with Aws. S/Sgt Wister, Plt Sgt of the atch MGs was killed and the intensity of the enemy fire did not allow the group to neutralize the enemy positions or recover Sgt. Wister's body. The group withdrew but were again fired upon approx 100 yds back along the road. Pvt Buchanan of the atch MGs being killed. A patrol of two squads under S/Sgt Davis, which had left the CP at 0930 to reconnoiter the area to the N of the road, heard the firing and assaulted the enemy on the left flank. The attack was repulsed and S/Sgt Davis was wounded in the leg. The patrol reorganized under S/Sgt Minor and again assaulted the position causing the enemy to withdraw. Reinforcements consisting of the 3rd plt mortar plt and 1 section of LMGs were ordered from the Co. Attempts to lay a mortar preparation on the area failed because of the heavy rain ruining the available ammo. The attack continued with one squad of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, and one section of LMGs moving up the road to the E and the 3rd plt

under Lt. Watkins moving up the ridge to the N. As the 3rd plt moved through the areas skirmishers and enemy AW opened fire on the left flank killing Pfc Slow, but because of the thick undergrowth and heavy rains the enemy could not be located. The plt continued on until it joined the MG section on the road and then under covering MG and small arms fire the 1st squad, under Sgt Dablock, advanced and recovered S/Sgt Wister's body. The enemy had stripped the body of a TSMG, all other equipment and some clothing. The Co returned at 1400.

3 May 45

At 1300 one squad of the 3rd plt under Pfc Rickard reconnoitered to the S approx 300 yds. The patrol discovered two fresh cooking fires but could not locate any enemy. Heavy rains cut radio communications and the patrol returned. At 1500 the 3rd plt under Lt Watkins, moved out to return to the same area but rains prevented the patrol from descending the slick trails so the plt returned at 1630. No enemy contact.

4 May 45

At 1100 the 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved out to patrol area approx 500 yds SE and to contact the 185 Rct. Patrol discovered several small enemy bivouac areas but all had been vacated for several days. At 1130 the plt surprised several enemy and opened fire killing one Jap. Other enemy could be heard talking excitedly in the undergrowth so no attempt was made to search the body. As the patrol was small no attempt ws made to engage the enemy and the patrol returned at 1300.

5 May 45

No patrols. No enemy contacts.

6 May 45

2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved out at 0900 to reconnoiter the Patog area approx 1000 yds E. Patrol discovered several small enemy bivouac areas and defense positions but had no enemy contacts. Radio contact was lost so patrol returned at 1600. At 0915 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved through 1st Bn to Mulago R to find possible enemy evacuation route. Patrol had moved upstream approx 1600 yds when several enemy were discovered. Patrolopened fire killing three enemy but several others escaped. Because of poor tactical position only one body was searched and the patrol withdrew, climbed the steep wall of the gorge and returned to the perimeter at 1730.

7 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

8 May 45

At 0930 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved NE to Mulago R with the Co Lt Collins and the CP group moving 500 yds NE to at as possible litter bearers and maintain radio contact. Patrol reached the river and set up security at 1300. Lt. Watkins and one squad under Pfc Hudock crossed river and advanced approx 150 yds up the opposite slope but heavy rains prevented climbing the steep slope. Patrol returned at 1500. 1st plt under Sgt. Nagy, moved S as security patrol. There was no enemy contact but several enemy positions were discovered and blown. Jap explosive with a large quantity of US Cal 30 M-1 ammo in good condition were found. Patrol returned at 1700.

9 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

10 May 45

The 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved S approx 800 yds on security patrol at 0800. No enemy contacts. Patrol returned at 1100.

11 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

12 May 45

Co entrucked at 0800 and moved to Rgtl CP area at 1200. Bn convoy formed and Bn moved through Silay and Bacolod to area approx 500 yds SW of Hill 4055 and 5 km NE of Murcia and set up perimeter approx 1000 yds S of 160 RCT right flank.

13 May 45

At 0830 the 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard advanced E to act as security for engineers deactivating booby traps set our three weeks previously. The 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins followed to improve trail. With their mission accomplished the 2nd plt set out security until the position was taken over by E Co. As the 2nd plt started to return at 1230 Pvt Wicks activated a bouncing Betty that had been overlooked. The explosion killed Pvt Paine instantly, mortally wounded Pvt Wicks and wounded Sgt. Nagy in the foot. Filipino litter bearers evacuated the dead and wounded and the patrols returned at 1230.

14, 15, 16, 17, May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity. #5 men received two day passes to Cacolod on 16th.

18 May 45

Co moved forward 2000 yds at 0930 to relieve E Co. Small security patrols went out but no enemy contacted.

19 May 45

At 0830 Co moved NE approx 200 yds and set up perimeter along ridge E of E Co.

20 May 45

The 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins moved E on Secret Trail at 0830 approx 150 yds out the patrol surprised enemy outpost and killed the sentry. The patrol split with the 1st squad under Sgt Dablock and the 3rd squad under S/Sgt Williams frontally attacking the enemy positions. Two enemy were KIA but attempts to flank the position were unsuccessful. Enemy HMG fire wounded Pvt Brandon in the shoulder and the Co withdrew in order to put an arty concentration on enemy positions. Approx 60 rds were fired but because of terrain and difficulty of observation were generally ineffective. At 1330 the Co resumed their former position and the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor moved E along the crest of ridge to find an accessible route of attack. No enemy were contacted and no route was found. Co withdrew to E Co perimeter to allow for night interdictory fire.

21 May 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Collins, the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, and the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor moved E on Secret Trail to assault the enemy position. As the 3rd plt led up the side

of the ridge an enemy outpost opened fire and wounded Pvt Rouse in the head. Other enemy small arms fire and HMG fire the 2nd and 3rd squad laid down a base of fire which the 1st squad under S/Sgt Dablock unsuccessfully attempted to flank the position on the right but were prevented by the steep slope leading to the Jap position. After the enemy had evacuated this area it was discovered that the defense consisted of a total of 24 pill boxes in three supporting lines, surrounded by slopes too steep to climb without great difficulty. When flanking the enemy was found to be hopeless the Co withdrew and returned to the perimeter at 1330. One enemy KIA during attempted night infiltration.

23 May 45

Co left position at 0830 and moved SW 2000 yds to occupy F Co positions. As the lead scout entered the area enemy snipers killed 3 atch engineers. A patrol from the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor were unable to locate the enemy. Attempted night infiltrations were repulsed by small arm fire by the mortar and 3rd plt.

24 May 45

At 0800 a security patrol of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor was sent out. It returned at 1000 and reported no enemy in the vicinity. At 0930 Lt. Watkins and the 1st squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Kablock moved E to reconnoiter the area 1500 yds E of the perimeter. 200 yds out many Jap tracks were found on the trail and communication wires to D Co were found to be cut. The patrol returned to report what they found and to take out the remainder of the 3rd plt. As the patrol was returning a four man patrol from Regt HQ passed through the area heading E on the trail. At the point where the 3rd plt patrol turned back the patrol was ambushed and one man was killed. Two of the men were pinned down by enemy fire while the fourth escaped to get aid. Lt. Watkins plt arrived at the ambush and laid down a base of fire and recovered the body. One enemy was seen but there were no known enemy KIA. A night infiltration by the enemy was repulsed.

25 May 45

At 0900 the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor, was sent out to reconnoiter the Davao Area. About 100 yds from the Co perimeter the patrol encountered a large number of enemy preparing defensive positions. The enemy opened fire with AW and small arms pinning the patrol down. The Co Lt Collins took out one section of atchd HMG's and one squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Dablock, to aid the 2nd plt. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to flank the enemy and a frontal assault attempt was repulsed. One attached MG was LWA. The Co withdrew at 1400 after killing 3 Jap EM and 1 Jap Officer. 60 mm mortars fire was concentrated on the area during the rest of the day and during the night.

26 May 45

At 0900 after an intensive mortar concentration the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved into the formerly hals enemy position without resistance and set up a strong point. The plt was relieved by headquarters Co 2nd Bn and returned to the company perimeter at 1530.

27 May 45

Co moved NE 1000 yds at 1930 and set up a perimeter 400 yds N of E Co. No enemy contacts were made.

28 May 45

Small security patrols were sent out but no enemy contacts were made.

29 May 45

Lt. Gifford assumed command of the Co. One squad of the 3rd plt and one squad of the 2nd plt under Lt. Watkins, set up a strong point at water hole 250 yds SW of Co perimeter. Security patrols were sent out but no enemy were contacted.

30 May 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

31 May 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

1 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

2 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

3 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

4 June 45

At 0800 one squad of the 1st plt, one squad of the 3rd plt and a squad of guerillas under Lt Mars, moved 600 yds N of E Co. The patrol sighted several enemy, opened fire and killed one. Two others were believed wounded or killed. At 1500 the patrol returned having contacted no other enemy.

5 June 45

No patrols, no enemy activity.

6 June 45

At 1430 the company started back to the Regt CP approx 5 km NE of Murcia.

7 June 45

No activity.

8 June 45

The 2nd Bn moved SW to Murcia.

9 June 45

The 2nd Bn entrucked at 0830 and moved approx 1500 yds NW of hill 4055.

10 June 45

No activity

11 June 45

Co entrucked to move and the Co CP was set up in the Bago village square. The 2nd plt with atchd MGs took over guard duties at the Bago Bridge 24 km S of Bago. The 3rd and 4th plt took over guard duty at the 40th Div ammo dump 14 km S of Bacolod.

12 June 45

The 4th plt moved from the 46th ammo dump t take up guard duty on bridges between Bago and Bacolod.

13 June 45 to 6 July 45

Co remained on guard duty on assigned positions.

7 July 45

At 0730 the Co with atchd MG moved approx 6 mi S of Fabrica on logging train and stopped at the Bn CP, While stopped at the Bn CP at the Dian-ay Bridge, a B-24 dropped a stick of bombs across the area and Sgt. Keller, Cpl Burnett, and Pvts Emery, Lewis and Howe were WA. The Co moved about 5 mi S of the Bn CP and set up a perimeter. At 1300 the Co Lt. Gifford, and the 1st squad of the 1st plt left on a security patrol around the Co perimeter. No enemy were contacted. At 1300 the 3rd plt, under Lt. Watkins, moved west to find a possible crossing place on the Himagaan River. The patrol sighted one enemy across the river and fired upon him with no known affects. The patrol returned at 1730 and reported a possible crossing of Co perimeter at coordinated (15.5 -- 23.3). At 2230 Pvt Kleinschmidt was accidentally wounded in the arm by Cal. 45 pistol.

14 July 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Gifford the 2nd plt under Lt. Ward, and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, and one section of LMGs under Lt. Pomeroy, moved W to patrol S Bago area across the Himagaan River. The 3rd plt and the LMGs covered the 2nd while they crossed the river. The machine gunners fired upon an enemy who was signed across the river. The 2nd plt and 2 squad of the 3rd crossed the river and proceeded SW. The machine gunners investigated the enemy that it had fired upon and found that he was only wounded When they approached the Jap he committed suicide with a grenade. Upon investigation he was found to be a naval petty officer. The patrol returned and started to recross the river at 1330. The river, due to heavy rains, was rising rapidly and Pvt Chapman and Mauvis were washed off the rope and drowned in spite of efforts of Lt. Ward, Pfc Beauregard and Santilli and Pvt Usar to save them. Lt. Gifford, Lt. Watkins and 10 men remained on the W side of the river and the remainder of the patrol returned to the perimeter at 1730. At 1600 Pvt Michael was shot in the foot by a Jap sniper.

15 July 45

Lt. Gifford, Lt. Watkins and 10 men returned to the perimeter and the remainder of the patrol returned to the perimeter at 0730. At 0900 the first plt, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter to try and recover the two bodies of Pvts Chapman and Mauvis. They returned at 1430 unsuccessful.

16 July 45

A patrol led by the Co Lt. Gifford, consisting of the 1st plt under Lt. Mara and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, left the perimeter at 0800 crossed the Himmagaan River and proceeded into the S Bago area. The 1st plt in the lead surprised two Japs and opened fire but the enemy escaped. The patrol returned at 1700.

17 July 45

The Co moved S approx 400 yds on the logging train.

18 July 45

The second plt under Lt. Ward, left the perimeter at 0930 to reconnoiter the area W of Bugan. Swift water and steep banks prevented the patrol from crossing the Himagaan River. The patrol returned at 1500 having contacted no enemy.

19 July 45

At 0940 the Co Lt. Gifford, the 1st plt under Lt. Mara, the 2nd plt under Lt. Ward, and one LMG section crossed the Himagaan River and moved into the S Bago area. Two enemy were fired upon but escaped. One Jap 1st Lt. Was found in a Filipino hut and killed. Patrol set up perimeter at 1600.

20 July 45

Patrol returned to Co perimeter at 1030. No more enemy were contacted.

21 July 45

One squad under Lt. Mara left the perimeter at 1000 to recover body of soldier drowned on 14 July. The body was recovered by unidentified. Small security patrols reported no enemy activity.

22 July 45

Security patrols but no enemy activity.

23 July 45

Security patrols but no enemy activity.

24 July 45

Lt. Gifford went to the hospital and Lt. Collins assumed command. At 0830 the Co moved S approx four miles to Buband and set up squad tents.

25 July 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter at 0800 on security patrol. Patrol returned at 1000 having contacted no enemy. Lt. Gifford died of meningitis at 0855. At 1600 a native reported 4 enemy 1600 yds SE of Bugang. Patrol of 6 men from each platoon, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter at 1630 to investigate. The patrol reached the hut and killed one Jap, wounded another and one escaped. The patrol returned to the Co at 1500.

26 July 45

Co moved to Bagang and set up squad tents and started to clean up area for General's inspection.

27 July 45

Co worked on Co area.

28 July 45

Lt. Mara took out a volunteer squad to investigate a native report of Japs being in his house. The patrol reached the house guided by the Filipino and encircled it. One Jap was killed, one was wounded and one got away. The patrol returned to the Co area that night.

29 July 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, left on a two day patrol into the Balala Valley area. Patrol left at 0830 and returned 30 July 45. No indications or signs of the enemy were found.

30 July 45

The 2nd plt, under Lt. Warren, left at 0830 and went SE to the bottom of the ridge line They reached Tannon Strait and from there they followed the bottom of the ridge until they reached the end of the spur line. From there they returned to the Co area. No enemy were contacted and no signs of the enemy were found. The 3rd plt, under Lt. Lange, left for Maloposac at 0930 and proceeded about 5000 yds S of Maloposac on the E side of the river. They found a shack with Nips in it and killed three while they were trying to escape. One got away. The patrol continued on for about 500 yds and set up a perimeter for the night.

31 July 45

The first squad of the 2nd plt left on a patrol which covered the ridges between the Himagayan River and Maloposac. No enemy were contacted. The third plt returned having no further enemy contact.

1 Aug. 45

The Co rested.

2 Aug. 45

The 2nd squad of the 1st plt took ammo and communication equipment and was set up about seven miles W of Co area. They delivered the ammo and equip and spent the night in F Co perimeter. On their return the next day they killed one Jap.

3 Aug. 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, the 2nd under Lt. Ward, and one section of MGs under Lt. Pomeroy, left Burang to patrol the Camao Valley area. The two platoons set up a bivouac area and base of operation in the central part of the Camoa Valley. No enemy contacted.

4 Aug. 45

The 1st plt and 2nd plt left bivouac area and moved S through the Camao Valley. At 1400 the patrol was fired on by an estimated number of 5 enemy. The patrol returned the fire and advanced on the enemy position but the Japs had evacuated the area. No further enemy contact was made. The remainder of the Co went to Maloposac and started to clean the new Co area.

5 Aug. 45

The 1st plt moved SW to investigate suspected Jap bivouac area. No enemy were contacted but the patrol burned 24 shacks. The patrol was resupplied by air at 1700. The remainder of the Co set up the new Co at Maloposac.

6 Aug. 45

The 1st and 2nd plt patrolled the Camao area but no enemy contacts were made.

7 Aug. 45

The first and second plt returned to Maloposac and joined the Co.

8 Aug. 45

The Co rested and cleaned up the Co area.

9 Aug. 45

The Co led by Lt. Stover, left the Co area at 0840 on a three to six day patrol into the S Bago area. No enemy were contacted.

10 Aug. 45

The Co bivouac area and drop zone were located and the 1st plt, under Lt. Mara moved out to patrol the S bank of the Himtican R. No enemy were contacted. The 3rd plt, under Lt. Lange, moved No to locate new bivouac area for the Co. No enemy were contacted.

11 Aug. 45

The 2nd plt, under Lt. Ward, moved S to patrol trail leading to Bago R. The remainder of the Co under Lt. Stover, crossed Himican R and moved NE with mission of contacting 2nd Bn 53 Filipino gt. Which was moving S along the Himagon R. One Nip was sighted but escaped our fire. Co set up perimeter 500 yds N of Himitican R. The 2nd plt returned to their former perimeter.

12 Aug. 45

The Co remained in their bivouac area awaiting resupply. Local patrols were sent out but no enemy contacted. Resupply was dropped by Piper cub at 1600. Co spent the night in the same perimeter. The 3rd plt returned to the Co area at 1930.

13 Aug. 45

The Co moved out at 0800 with instructions to contact F Co patrol on RR tracks at Dain-ay Bridge. Contact was made at 1400 and Co set up perimeter along the tracks.

14 Aug. 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, moved SE toward Himagon R to contact any enemy desiring to surreader. No contacts were made. The 2nd plt, under Lt. Ward, left the Co area to meet a squad of F Co and a squad of engineers in the Dantiago area. No enemy contacted.

15 Aug. 45

PEACE WAS DECLARED and all patrols were called in. The 2nd plt returned to the Co area and the remainder of the Co remained at the Dain-ay Bridge awaiting transportation.

16 Aug. 45

The remainder of the Co returned to Maloposac and the Co went into GARRISON.

"THE END"

The 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team World War II began with the activation of the 503d Parachute Battalion in Fort Benning, Georgia on 21 August 1941 The Battalion was the third of four Parachute Battalions formed prior to the beginning of World War II The others were 501, 502 and 504.

On 2 March 1942 the 503rd Parachute Battalion was the nucleus around which the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was formed. This was the first of a number of such regiments organized over the next few years. The Regiment was transferred to Fort Bragg North Carolina in March 1942.

On 20 October 1942 the Regiment left the POE San Francisco on the MS Poelau Laut. The first stop was the Panama Canal Zone where the 501st Parachute Battalion was picked up. This battalion was redesignated as the Second Battalion of the 503d PIR, replacing the original 503d's Second Battalion which had been sent to England and, eventually redesignated as the 509 The Regiment landed in Cairns, Australia on 2 December 1942 after a voyage of 43 days and 42 nights. Later the Regiment was expanded into a Combat Team with the assignment of the 462d Parachute Artillery Battalion on 29 March 1944 and the 161st Parachute Engineer Company on 13 September 1944.
During its more than three years service in the Southwest Pacific Theater, the 503d served in five major combat operations. A number of other missions were planned but called off by higher headquarters

1 The Regiment jumped in the Markham Valley New Guinea, on 5 September 1943, in the first successful Airborne Combat Jump. The Regiment forced the Japanese evacuation of a major base at Lae to take a route which proved to be disastrous for them. The third Battalion of the 503d had a major skirmish with the rear guard of this exodus. The successful employment of Parachute troops, in the Markham Valley, has been credited with saving the concept of vertical envelopment from being abandoned following several less than successful engagements in Europe.

2. Two rifle Battalions of the 503d Regiment jumped on the Island of Noemfoor off the coast of Dutch, New Guinea early in July 1944, followed by an amphibious landing by the other rifle Battalion a few days later. The Regiment was employed in the elimination of the Japanese garrison on that Island. Airfields constructed on Noemfoor after its capture played a significant role in supporting the advance of Allied troops from New Guinea to the Philippines. Sergeant Ray E. Eubanks was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, for his actions on Noemfoor.

3 Following a non-combat landing on the Island of Leyte, in the Philippines, the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team made a major amphibious landing on the Island of Mindoro, in the central Philippines on 15 December 1944. Originally, it was intended for the 503rd to jump on Mindoro but due to inadequate airstrip facilities on Leyte an airborne landing was not possible. The purpose of this landing was to secure sites for air strips providing forward Air Corp bases to support later landings at Lingyen Gulf, Luzon The Combat Team was subjected to intense air and naval actions during this operation, at one point being shelled for 25 minutes by a Japanese Naval task force
One Company of the Combat Team engaged in a fierce battle against a Company-size enemy air raid warning station on the North end of Mindoro

4 The Combat Team jumped on Fortress Corregidor on 16 February 1945 to

liberate that Island from occupying Japanese forces. This was the most vicious combat action in which the Combat Team engaged during its existence. Corregidor was the bastion which withstood a fierce Japanese siege for nearly five months in 1941 and 1942, thereby interrupting the Japanese advance toward Australia. The 503rd was proud to have been allowed to have the honor of recapturing the Island. Japanese sources, within recent years have estimated there were 6550 Japanese on the Island when the 503rd landed. Of those, only 50 survived. The 503rd, however, lost 169 men killed and many wounded or injured. The 503rd was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions. Private Lloyd G. McCarter was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery on Corregidor.

5. Almost immediately after returning to Mindoro from Corregidor, the Combat Team was called upon to bolster the 40th Division which was bogged down on the Island of Negros, in the Central Philippines. The Combat team was inserted into Negros by landing craft, although it had been alerted for another combat jump. The objectives of the proposed jump, a strategic bridge and a large lumber mill, were destroyed by Japanese forces, thereby eliminating the first objectives of the 503d. The 503rd engaged in fierce battles against frantic Japanese resistance in the mountainous areas of Negros for more than five months. The 40th US Division convinced higher headquarters there were only a few enemy troops remaining on the Island and were moved to Mindanao, leaving the 503rd to battle the Japanese alone. At the end of the War with Japan in August 1945, about 7,500 of the surviving Japanese troops surrendered to the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team.

Official U.S. War Department sources estimated the 503rd killed over 10,000 Japanese troops during its combat operations in the Southwest Pacific. Unfortunately, the 503rd lost a lot of good men in accomplishing its missions. The names of 348 of these men have been identified. By early November 1945 the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team ceased to be operational. All men with lengthy service in the Southwest Pacific had been rotated to the United States while those who had served the Combat Team for a shorter time had been reassigned to the 11th Airborne Division and sent as occupation troops to Japan. The Regiment was inactivated on 24 December 1945 at Camp Anza, California. Veterans of the 503rd, who served during World War II, began holding informal get-togethers almost immediately after 1945. An Association was established and National Reunions have been held each year since 1957.

Written by Donald E. Abbott, July 1997

Corregidor was more than a military objective when we attacked it in February: the "Rock" had become an important symbol in American history as our last Pacific out post of any size to fall to the enemy in the early stages of the war.

The Japanese took Corregidor on 6 May 1942 after a fairly long seige of attrition followed by landing operations in which their casualties amounted to 5,000 killed and 3,000 wounded in 15 hours. We recaptured the island nearly there years later in perfectly coordinated triphibious assault in which our losses were only 136 killed and 531 wounded

The Japanese opened their attack on Corregidor with an aerial bombardment on 29 December 1941, five days after General MacArthur moved his headquarters there, but the heaviest attacks throughout the siege were from artillery based on Cavite, and later, on Bataan. When the last American troops on Bataan surrendered on 9 April, the enemy was able to mass his artillery for an all-out shelling of the Rock and its antiquated batteries.

Although the network of tunnels through Corregidor's hills afforded protection to the American garrison, much of the defense activity had to be carried on in the open. By 4 May, many of the guns had been knocked out, the water supply was low, and casualties were mounting. Particularly heavy shellfire prologued the Japs' attempt to land the next night their officers later admitted that they had been amazed at the savage resistance, which accounted for the sinking of about two-thirds of their barges. The American losses during those fifteen hours before the final surrender on 6 May were from 600 to 800 dead and 1,000 wounded

Paratroops land on "B" field, one of their two tiny drop zones. This one was edged by 500-foot cliffs, and some of the men went into the water, most of these were rescued by our small craft operating along the shores of the island.

When the time came to avenge that surrender our air-land-sea team was perfectly conditioned by the long fight back from New Guinea In December 1943, the softening up of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, before the Marine landings there, gave the Pacific theater a new verb for intense pre-invasion bombings Gloucesterize

The Gloucesterizing of Corregidor began on 23 January 1945, when heavy bombers dropped 595 tons on the Rock Daily strikes by the AAF continued through 16 February, the day paratroops swung down from the sky onto the island, and extended another week, until most of the remaining Nips had been rooted out of ravines and caves Preliminary figures for the 23 January 24 February

period show 2,028 effective sorties hitting Corregidor with 3,163 tons of bombs The Navy began adding to the fireworks on 13 February, with cruisers and destroyers shelling from close to shore on the following day, minesweepers began operating around the island During all this time while the stage was being set for invasion, not a single enemy plane or naval vessel interfered with the proceedings Then 16 February came, and after a sunrise attack by B-24s and an hour of low altitude bombings and strafings by A-20s, the 503rd Parachute regiment began dropping out of C 47s of troop carrier units of FEAF They came down on the western heights known as "Topside", while a beachhead was being established by elements of the 24th Infantry Division at San Jose on the east end of the island

Three hours after leaving their Mindoro base, the 503rd Regiment paratroops were in possession of "Topside" They had hard landing at the two tiny "go-point areas, for a 16-18 knot wind sprang up as the planes came along, necessitating a change of timing in the jumpmasters' counts

The grueling air and naval softening up of the Rock had left the defending Japs dazed and scattered but they rallied, and nearly two weeks isolated groups of them fought on with a suicidal frenzy But several days before 1 March our forces in possession of Corregidor, opening the finest harbor in the East to Allied shipping More than 4,000 Japs were killed on Corregidor, and many more drowned while swimming away from the Rock Others, estimated to be thousands, sealed themselves in the subterranean passages, and those who destroyed themselves made the island reverberate with underground explosions for many days afterward

Christian
Herberholz

The Battle of Corregidor

On May 6, 1942, American and Philipino forces surrendered the Island of Corregidor and the rest of the Philippine nation to the Japanese. General MacArthur was committed to regain the Island under his command therefore declaring war on the Japanese. To the American soldier, Corregidor was more than a military objective. The "*Rock*" as it was nicknamed had become an important symbol in United States history as the last pacific outpost of any size to fall to the Japanese.

General MacArthur's strategy was to make a combined water and air assault to retake the island. The airborne phase was risky because the small island was a difficult target for a parachute drop. Complicating the strategy, the paratroopers had to land on a hill with the most difficult terrain known as Topside.

On February 16 AT 0833 the first of one thousand troopers began dropping on the surprised Japanese defenders. Paratroopers and infantrymen battled with the determined Japanese fighters.

The Japanese used many underground tunnels to hide

in for surprise attacks. For days the U.S. used explosives and mortar attacks to kill the Japanese. Finally, engineers poured large quantities of gasoline down the tunnels and set them on fire while sealing the entrances. The fighting lasted until February 26, 1945 when Corregidor was finally declared secure.

Large numbers of Japanese troops drowned while attempting to swim away from the rock. Thousands sealed themselves in tunnels and committed suicide rather than surrendering.

It was estimated that there were seven thousand United States troops and of those 207 were killed 684 were wounded.The Japanese had 6700 troops and 6600 were killed ,50 wounded and 19 were prisoners of the war.

On March 7, 1945 General MacArthur returned to the island for the ceremonial raising of the flag.He was quoted as saying "*I see that old flag/still stands.Have your troops hoist the colors to its peak and let no enemy ever again haul it down*".

The honors for recapturing the rock went to the 503 parachute combat team which my grandpa was a member.

May 5, 2011

David Cordero
759 S. Cotton Meadow Ln.
Washington, UT 84780

Jim Huerter
303 N. Fourth St.
Seneca, KS 66538

Dear Jim,

Thanks for sending me your filled-out questionnaire. I appreciate you taking the time. I have a few follow-up questions, and a note about nto the Rising Sun, by Patrick K O'Donnell.

First, here is the ink to the book on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/into-Rising-Sun-Pac fic-Veterans/dp/1439192588/ref=sr_1 1?s=books&ie UTF8&qid=1284878934 &sr=1-1

As you can see, used copies are starting at 49 cents. You are mentioned on Page 217, while John Reynolds was recounting his experience in Negros It reads:

'A mortar shell Lieutenant Nickles, amputated T-4 Upchurch's leg . remember McLaughlin rising, blood was running down his face ... yelling 'Nickles is dead, Nickles is dead. ... A few minutes later, ***Private Huerter*** was l ghtly wounded by mortar fragments. .. Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant David was killed by an enemy sniper '

You ment oned on your questionnaire you are good friends with Sgt. Ke ler. Is that Frank Keller, who stayed with a wounded comrade on a topside slope and basically had to hide from the Japanese for a couple of days until th ngs cleared up? I have interviewed him a few times. Last I heard he was doing well in Pennsylvania

Also, please describe the beach landing on Negros.

Did you and your fellow troopers hijack a supply truck to grab a few rations in Negros? How did that end up working? Anything to eat, right?

What was going through your mind as you rode in the C-47, waiting to jump on Corregidor and begin your combat experience?

Did you know Harry Drews and John Lindgren well?

Thanks so much for your help! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

David

dcordero78@hotmail.com
435-512-1511

Military Service

VFW Member since:
1950

Branch:
U.S. Army

Theater of Operations:
Pacific

Military Medals:
Bronze Star; Purple Heart w/OLC; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Philippine Liberation Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Combat Infantryman Badge

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James J. Huerter

Born:
May 29, 1924

Post:
#7458
Seneca Memorial Post
Seneca, KS

James J. Huerter

Seneca, Kansas

05/29/1924 - 07/28/2021

James J. Huerter, 97, of Seneca, passed away on July 28, 2021, at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca, KS, surrounded by his family.

Jim was born May 29, 1924 near Goff, KS. He was the son of Emil and Valeria Johnstone Huerter. He grew up in the Goff Community and graduated from Goff High School in 1942.

Jim entered the U.S. Army on February 28, 1944 at Ft. Leavenworth and was discharged on February 9, 1946 at Ft. Logan, CO. He was assigned to the 503rd Parachute Infantry. During his time in the military, he was in New Guinea, the Southern Philippines and Luzon. He received two bronze stars and was awarded three purple hearts for the injuries he received during the war. He was discharged with the rank of Tec 5.

When he came home from serving his country, Jim obtained a certificate for Electrical. He married Geraldine "Jerrie" B. Enneking on September 3, 1946 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Seneca. Jim and Jerrie celebrated 74 ½ years of marriage.

The couple made their home in the Kelly community, and were members of St. Bede's Catholic Church in Kelly. Jim worked for Love and Osterhaus Construction, and for Adams Township where he ran the grader for 10 years. Jim was later employed by the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca from 1963 to 1991.

In 2010 he moved to Seneca; where he was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and St. Joseph Society. Jim was a member of the Seneca Memorial Post #7458 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and received his 75-year award for his membership; he also belonged to the Earl W. Taylor Post #21.

His hobbies and interests were woodworking, metal detecting, coin collecting, gardening, fishing, hunting and in his younger days he enjoyed racing cars at the Olberding race track east of Seneca.

He was preceded in death by wife, Jerrie on March 23, 2021; his parents; Emil and Valeria Huerter; a great- grandson, Dyllon Butrick on September 12, 2012; his brother, William on November 18, 2017.

Survivors are his children, Connie (Roger) Battin of Hiawatha, James Jr (Ann) Huerter of Topeka, Gary (Lori) Huerter of Seneca, Ronnie Huerter of Seneca; Cindy (Dan) Carlson of Seneca, Kelli (Greg) Olberding of Seneca; DeAnn (Larry) Herberholz of Scottsboro, Alabama; brothers, Robert Huerter of Chanute, Alfred "Smitty" Huerter of Goff and Daniel Huerter of Bellevue, NE; 23 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren, ten great-great grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren on the way.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday July 31, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.at Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Seneca. A rosary will be prayed at 9:30 A.M., prior to the Mass.

Jim will be laid to rest, next to his wife Jerrie, in the St. Bede's Catholic Cemetery in Kelly, KS.

Memorials may be left in Jim's memory to Seneca Military Museum in Seneca, and may be sent in care of the family.